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**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
DIVISION OF FOSTER CARE REVIEW**

1995-1996 ANNUAL REPORT



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STATE DOCUMENTS

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world;
indeed, it's the only thing that ever does." Margaret Mead*

STATE BOARD MEMBERS

as of December 31, 1995

James Curtis Harkness, Chairperson, Aiken, SC, At-Large
VACANT, 1st Congressional District
Cecelia Aversa, West Columbia, SC, , 2nd Congressional District
Elizabeth B. Weaver, Easley, SC, 3rd Congressional District
Mary Lynn Melton, Spartanburg, SC, 4th Congressional District
Judy Hamrick, Gaffney, SC, 5th Congressional District
VACANT, 6th Congressional District

STAFF

Susan B. Bowling, Division Director
Denise T. Barker, Program Director/Medicaid and Training
Beth M. Green, Program Director/Foster Care Review
Kali C. Turner, General Counsel
Maisy Babbitt, Senior Accountant
Pam Gallion, Administrative Assistant II
Vickie Barfield, Medicaid Review Specialist
Robin Campbell, Project Administrator
Khush Tata, Programmer Analyst
Elizabeth Dees, Review Board Coordinator
Ann Benck, Review Board Coordinator
Keith Campbell, Review Board Coordinator
Stephen Clyburn, Review Board Coordinator
Lynn Pietropaola, Review Board Coordinator
Todd Stephens, Review Board Coordinator
Dallas Shealy, Review Board Coordinator
Elinor Thompson, Review Board Coordinator
Cynthia Tillman, Review Board Coordinator
Lynne Caldwell, Administrative Specialist
Gardenia Logan, Administrative Specialist

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Office of the Governor - Division of Foster Care Review
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LOCAL REVIEW BOARD CHAIRPERSONS - 1995

First Judicial Circuit

1A Doris Boone, St. Matthews
1B Brenda Wallace, Orangeburg

Second Judicial Circuit

2A Margie Blizzard, Wagener
2B Mary Ann Rogers, Aiken

Third Judicial Circuit

3A Rosa Conner, Kingstree
3B Ruth Shuford, Bishopville

Fourth Judicial Circuit

4A Willa Johnson, Wallace
4B Wayne Sims, Hartsville

Fifth Judicial Circuit

5A Miriam Brown, Columbia
5B Wilbur Tucker, Columbia
5C Ted Moore, Columbia
5D Louise McFarland, Columbia
5E Kathy Thornton, Columbia

Sixth Judicial Circuit

6A Margarita Pate, Lancaster

7th Judicial Circuit

7A Dorothy Hughes, Spartanburg
7B Judy Hamrick, Gaffney

Eighth Judicial Circuit

8A Sue Summer, Newberry

Ninth Judicial Circuit

9A Pearl Jenkins, Charleston
9B Christee Hunt, Moncks Corner
9C Jackie Brewer, Charleston
9D Joanne Penman, Charleston

Tenth Judicial Circuit

10A Debbie Thrift, Westminster
10B Linda Williams, Easley

Eleventh Judicial Circuit

11A Marion Atkins, Columbia
11B Gail Nordyke, McCormick

Twelfth Judicial Circuit

12A Alice Baker, Florence
12B Isabelle Bryant, Mullins

Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

13A Scott Hart, Easley
13B Tommy Rice, Greenville
13C Sara Burnett, Greenville

Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

14A Jeanine Cannington, Varnville
14B Ollie McAlister, Ridgeland

Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

15A David Drayton, Georgetown
15B Eaddy Roe, Myrtle Beach
15C Al Fanshaw, Conway

Sixteenth Judicial Circuit

Martha Cowen, Rock Hill

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT	1
STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE AGENCY	3
STATUS OF 1994-95 ANNUAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	6
1995-96 ANNUAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	8
LOCAL FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS	12
STATISTICAL INFORMATION - REVIEWS CONDUCTED BY REVIEW BOARDS	19
ADVOCACY - CASE REFERRAL PROCESS	34
DEMOGRAPHIC AND COMPARATIVE DATA.....	36
1995 THERAPEUTIC MEDICAID PLACEMENT DATA	48
MEDICAID REVIEW SYSTEM	57
APPENDIX A.....	59

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

In the early 1970's in South Carolina, many child welfare professionals and citizen groups began advocacy efforts on behalf of children in the foster care system. These efforts resulted from their concern over the plight of the child adrift in the foster care system. The ultimate result of these efforts was the establishment of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System in 1974, one of the first such organizations in the nation.

Six major private organizations between 1970 and 1974 spearheaded the initial efforts to obtain permanent homes for children in foster care. These organizations were the American Civil Liberties Union, the South Carolina Council for Human Rights, the South Carolina League of Women Voters, the Midlands Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the South Carolina Youth Workers Association and Helping Hands of Aiken County. Child psychiatrists, child psychologists, social work professors, law professors and various church leaders also participated as private citizens to help give direction to the project.

Research to document the condition of foster care in South Carolina was a primary focus of these organizations. Four studies were done in cooperation with Representative Carolyn Frederick, Vice-Chairperson of the South Carolina General Assembly's Study Committee on Legal and Legislative Matters Pertaining to Children. The results of these four studies showed the following:

1. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the children in the Department of Social Services foster care program would neither return home nor be adopted under the existing system. Services were not being provided by the system to the parents to facilitate return home and no efforts were made to free many children eligible for adoption under the abandonment statute.
2. A survey of fourteen private and three public institutions, formerly known as orphanages, showed that the Department of Social Services placed 43% of the children while private placements accounted for 57% of the children placed. Some 20-50% of these children were eligible for adoption under the abandonment statute; however, none of these institutions stated that adoption was one of their services. In addition, most of these institutions offered no services to families to enable return of the children home.
3. Forty-three percent (43%) of the children in foster care had been in two or more foster placements and eighteen percent (18%) had been in three or more.
4. No method existed to keep track of children in foster care. The courts expressed concern about children being lost in the system. Even when children were freed for adoption, the courts had no way of knowing if the children had been placed adoptively.
5. The cost to taxpayers for keeping children in foster care was growing steadily with no resolution in sight.

6. Children were suffering irreparable psychological damage as victims of foster care drift.

The findings from these studies clearly indicated the need for a system to monitor the cases of children in foster care to achieve appropriate permanent placements for these children.

Thus, a statewide foster care review board system was legislated by the 1974 General Assembly. In March of 1975, Governor James Edwards, by Executive Order, established the Office of Child Advocacy as a division of the Office of the Governor. This Executive Order charged that the Office of Child Advocacy establish and coordinate the Children's Foster Care Review Board System and act as ombudsman on behalf of the abused, neglected, abandoned and dependent children of the State. The initial funding for the Review Board System as part of the Office of Child Advocacy was shared by the State and the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation.

The Children's Foster Care Review Board System was fully funded by the General Assembly as a separate state agency in 1977. The Office of Child Advocacy existed as a program of the Review Board System until 1980, at which time it was returned to the Governor's Office. While a part of the Review Board System, the Office of Child Advocacy conducted an ombudsman program for children in general and a training program in the prevention and identification of child abuse and neglect for hospitals and other organizations upon request.

In 1985, the Review Board System was placed under proviso legislation in order to restructure and reorganize the Agency. Permanent legislation and regulations passed by the General Assembly in 1986 restored the Agency to permanent status. South Carolina state government restructuring in July, 1993 returned the Foster Care Review Board to the Governor's office as a separate division under the Office of Executive Policy and Programs.

The Division of Foster Care Review is currently comprised of a staff of twenty-one serving thirty-six Review Boards across the State. The Review Board System reviews the cases of approximately 5000 children in foster care twice annually, statistically evaluates the state of foster care in South Carolina, and makes recommendations to the Governor and child caring facilities as outlined by South Carolina law.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE AGENCY

Sections 20-7-2376 *et seq.* of the South Carolina Code of Laws create the Children's Foster Care Review Board System and establish the Division to administer case reviews as follows:

I. State Board for Review of Foster Care of Children

The Division is supported by a State Board which consists of seven members, all of whom must be past or present members of a local Review Board. There must be one member from each congressional district and one member from the State at large, all appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Members of the State Board serve four year terms and until their successors are appointed and qualify. A chairperson is elected from the membership of the State Board for a two year term.

The State Board is responsible for:

- a. the promulgation of regulations, upon recommendation of the Division Director, pursuant to the provisions of South Carolina Code of Laws Section 20-7-2376 *et seq.*, relating to the functions, policies, and procedures of the Review Board System;
- b. the promulgation of regulations, upon recommendation of the Division Director, to provide for review of necessary reports and other information required from state, county and private agencies and institutions, and to report to the Family Court on the status of court ordered treatment plans;
- c. the annual report to the Governor which includes recommendations regarding foster care policies, procedures, and any deficiencies of public and private agencies and institutions which arrange for foster care for children; and, the activities of the Review Board System.
- d. the review and coordination of the activities of the local Review Boards;
- e. the creation or dissolution of local Review Boards as necessary to maintain appropriate caseloads for each Board.

II. Local Review Boards

There are thirty-six local Review Boards, each composed of five members, with at least one local Board in each of the sixteen judicial circuits throughout the state. Board members are appointed by the Governor upon recommendation by their respective legislative delegation. Their duties are as follows:

1. To review every six months but no less frequently than once every six months the cases of children who have resided in public foster care for a period of more than four

consecutive months and to review every six months the cases of children who have resided in private foster care for a period of more than six consecutive months to determine what efforts have been made by the supervising agency or child caring facility to acquire a permanent home for the child. In private foster care cases, Review Boards will recommend continued placement in the child caring facility unless the parents are able to resume care, in at least those instances when:

- a. children are privately placed in privately owned facilities or group homes; and
 - b. a notarized affidavit of summary review is executed by the child caring facility and is valid on its face; and
 - c. the affidavit of summary review is submitted to the Board every six months. It must be accepted by the Board if it attests to the statutorily mandated conditions and is valid on its face.¹
2. Except as provided in subsection (1), to encourage the return of children to their natural parents, or, upon determination during a case review of the local Review Board that this return is not in the best interest of the child, to recommend to the appropriate agency that action be taken for a maximum effort to place the child for adoption.
 3. To promote and encourage all agencies and facilities involved in placing children in foster care to place children with persons suitable and eligible as adoptive parents.
 4. To advise foster parents of their right to petition the Family Court for termination of parental rights and for adoption and to encourage these foster parents to initiate these proceedings in an appropriate case when it has been determined by the local Review Board that return to the natural parent is not in the best interest of the child.
 5. To recommend that a child caring facility or agency exert all possible efforts to make arrangements for permanent foster care or guardianship for children for whom return to natural parents or adoption is not feasible or possible as determined during a case review by the local Review Board.
 6. To report to the State Office of the Department of Social Services and other adoptive or foster care agencies deficiencies in these agencies' efforts to secure permanent homes for children. These deficiencies are identified in the local Boards' review of these cases as provided for in subsection (1) of this section.

Any case findings or recommendations of a local Review Board are advisory.

¹ Effective January 1, 1994, children privately placed in private children's homes were no longer reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board. Statutory authority was granted to the Review Board in Proviso #6DD.39 of the Fiscal Year 93/94 budget to cease these reviews. The General Assembly believed it to be a more appropriate use of state dollars to focus reviews on the cases of children who are in the custody of the State rather than private cases.

Any person or agency aggrieved by an action or recommendation of a local review board may seek relief by petition to the family court of that county which may issue a rule to show cause why the action or recommendation of the local review board should be set aside or modified. The Foster Care Review Board may participate in judicial reviews of a child's cases, but will file a motion to intervene if it intends to become a party to the action.

No person may be employed by the Division or serve on the state or local foster care Review Board if the person:

1. is the subject of an indicated report or affirmative determination of abuse or neglect as maintained by the Department of Social Services in the Central Registry of Child and Abuse and Neglect pursuant to Section 20-7-680; or,
2. has been convicted or pled guilty or nolo contendere to:
 - a) an "offense against the person" as provided for in Title 16, Chapter 3;
 - b) an "offense against morality or decency" as provided for in Title 16, Chapter 15; or,
 - c) contributing to the delinquency of a minor, as provided for in Section 16-17-490.

Before a person is employed by the Division or before an appointment or reappointment is made to the state or a local foster care review board, the Division submits the name of the potential employee or board member to the Department of Social Services for a records check of indicated reports or affirmative determinations from the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect and to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division for a criminal records background check to verify the applicants status.

STATUS OF 1994-95 ANNUAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Directors made three recommendations in its 1994-95 Annual Report to the General Assembly. The recommendations for 1994-95 were based in part on the recommendations made in an audit of the Review Board conducted by the Legislative Audit Council and from statistical indicators derived from Review Board data.

RECOMMENDATION I: Improved Utilization of Review Board Data

The Division of Foster Care Review and the Department of Social Services will develop and implement a plan to use recommendations and data issued by the Review Board as a management tool to benefit the operation of the foster care system.

Update:

- The Division of Foster Care Review and the Department of Social Services task force established during 1995 worked throughout the year to study ways to better utilize data and recommendations issued by the Review Board. Please refer to *Appendix A* for the detailed report of this Committee.

RECOMMENDATION II: Improved Utilization of Review Board Recommendations by the Family Court

In conjunction with the Court Improvement Project, the Foster Care Review Board will develop a process by which Review Board recommendations are considered and used more effectively by the Family Court to achieve timely permanent plans for children in foster care.

Update:

- The Review Board continues to serve as a member of the Court Improvement Project Task Force. Local Review Board members and Review Board staff responded to a survey distributed by the Court Improvement Project staff providing input as the Review Board's view of the Family Court System in South Carolina.
- The Review Board has been an active participant on the Bench Bar Committee of the Kellogg initiative during 1995. Working with this group, the Review Board continues to identify effective ways to communicate information about the Review Board to Family Court judges.

- General Counsel for the Review Board had the opportunity to meet all Family Court judges at a training session, in addition to appearing in Family Court around the state on an average of 1.3 times per week. At each meeting and court appearance, Review Board General Counsel shares information about the Review Board and receives useful feedback from judges on ways that the Boards can be more useful to the Family Court.
- Review Board General Counsel has established effective lines of communication with attorneys representing the Department of Social Services, as well as attorney Guardians ad litem assigned to represent foster children in Family Court actions. There has been a great deal of improvement in the Review Board's ability to obtain advance copies of motions, orders, hearing notices, summons, complaints and rules to show cause for cases of children reviewed by local Boards.

RECOMMENDATION III: Focus On Permanence For Children Placed In Therapeutic Foster Care

The Division of Foster Care Review will use the review process to focus the attention of all parties involved with children placed in therapeutic placements on the permanent plan for the child.

Update:

- The Medicaid Review System is a program implemented pursuant to a contract with the Department of Health and Human Services. Annual contracts for the implementation of this program have been in place since April, 1992. In addition to evaluating the continuing appropriateness of therapeutic foster care placements, the Review Board is required to assess to progress toward achievement of a permanent plan for each child reviewed in a therapeutic setting. Contract revisions with the Department of Health and Human Services for fiscal year 1995-96 specifically require that permanency planning be addressed in therapeutic treatment plans with providers.
- Review Board statistics for 1995 reflect that 25% of the reviews conducted involved placements of children in therapeutic foster care settings. This population of children, more than any other, will more than likely require the stability and security that a permanent home can provide throughout the remainder of their lifetimes. The number of children requiring therapeutic placements increased during 1995 while the financial resources available to meet their needs has decreased. The Review Board will continue to monitor the permanency planning needs of this growing population through regular reviews and Medicaid Review staffings.

1995-96 ANNUAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The South Carolina Board of Directors for the Review of Foster Care of Children annually makes recommendations to the Governor with regard to the foster care policies, procedures, and practices of public agencies which arrange for the foster care of children. These recommendations are determined through analysis of foster care cases reviewed by the 36 local Review Boards and data collected through research and studies. The recommendations for 1995/96 are based in part from statistical indicators derived from Review Board data as well as on information obtained from the Review Board's participation in other aspects of the child welfare field.

RECOMMENDATION I: ENHANCED ADOPTION SERVICES

The Review Board recommends that enhanced adoption services be made available to South Carolina's foster children in an effort to secure permanent homes for these children and to reduce the length of time spent in foster care by children who cannot return to their homes of origin.

REFERENCED DATA:

- Review Board data for 1995 indicates a sixteen percent (16%) decrease in the number of children leaving foster care to go into permanent adoptive placements.
- Review Board data for indicates that children who left the system in 1995 spent an average of 2.7 years in foster care. This is a slight improvement over the 2.9 year average recorded in 1994.

SUPPORTING INITIATIVES/STATUTES:

- *SC Code of Laws, Section 20-7-20(D)* states that all children in South Carolina who must be permanently removed from their homes be placed in adoptive homes so that they may become members of a family by legal adoption or absent that possibility, other permanent settings.
- *SC Code of Laws, Section 20-7-2376(C)* states that the local Children's Foster Care Review Board, upon determination that return home is not in the best interest of a child, must recommend that action be taken for a maximum effort to place the child adoptively.
- The *SC Families for Kids Project* is a joint venture of the South Carolina Department of Social Services and the United Way of South Carolina. Funded in part by a three year grant from the W.K. Kellogg foundation, the project is designed to improve the foster care system in South Carolina. The primary objective of the *SC Families for Kids Project* is to find a permanent family for every child within twelve months.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- More prospective adoptive families will be recruited and prepared to participate in a positive adoption experience.
- Dual training for prospective foster and adoptive families will be implemented to better facilitate the transition from foster care to adoption for children and families.
- Post adoptive services will be made available in an effort to support adoptive families.
- More children in foster care will be accepted for adoption services.
- More adoptions will be finalized which will reduce the number of children in foster care as well as reduce the average length of time children spend in care.

RECOMMENDATION II: IMPROVED RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR FOSTER PARENTS

The Review Board recommends that recruitment, training, involvement and support of foster parents in the area of permanency planning for foster children in their homes be improved.

REFERENCED DATA:

- Review Board data for 1995 indicates that five hundred (500) children in the foster care population as of December 31, 1995, were in placements with foster parents who are adoptive resources for these children.
- Two thousand five hundred and forty-six (2546) foster parents attended Foster Care Review Board meetings for children placed in their homes in 1995. The interest and concern indicated by these foster parents show a clear desire to be more actively involved in the planning processes that occur for their children.
- Review Board staff conducted training for local foster parent associations and the Annual State Foster Parent Association conference during 1995. At each session, foster parents voiced frustration about being excluded from important decisions regarding children placed in their homes. Foster parents believe that because they provide twenty-four hour care for foster children, they should be a vital part of the decision making process.

SUPPORTING INITIATIVES/STATUTES:

- *SC Code of Laws, Section 20-7-766* recognizes foster parents as parties in interest who may initiate, or participate in judicial review actions relative to children placed in their homes.

- *SC Code of Laws, Section 20-7-2376(C)* states that the local Children's Foster Care Review Board must promote and encourage all agencies and facilities involved in placing children in foster care to place children with person's suitable and eligible as adoptive parents. In 1995, over 50% of the adoptions completed by the Department of Social Services were foster parent adoptions.
- *SC Code of Laws, Section 20-7-2376(C)* states that local Children's Foster Care Review Boards must advise foster parents of their right to petition the Family Court for termination of parental rights and adoption and to encourage foster parents to initiate these proceedings in an appropriate case when it has been determined by the local Review Board that return to the natural parent is not in the best interest of the child.
- *The South Carolina Families for Kids Project* has a stated goal that foster and adoptive families, who are uncertain about the permanent plan for children in their care, will have community support and assistance to improve their ability to solve and/or cope with the problems of everyday living and promote the healthy development of children in their care.
- *The South Carolina Families for Kids Project* has a specific initiative to address ways to deal with the declining number of foster and adoptive families in South Carolina. A request for proposals has been made to public relations firms for the development of a comprehensive, coordinated and innovative strategy for the recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive homes.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- The availability of foster families will increase through enhanced recruitment, retention and training efforts.
- The number of foster families included in case planning for children in their care will increase.
- Foster parent participation in judicial review proceedings for children in their care will increase.
- Dual training for prospective foster and adoptive parents will be implemented to better facilitate permanency planning efforts for children in foster care.

RECOMMENDATION III: IMPROVED LEGAL RESOURCES FOR FOSTER CHILDREN.

The Review Board recommends that legal resources and legal support available to children in foster care be improved to ensure that children do not linger unnecessarily in the foster care system due to legal delays or inaction.

REFERENCED DATA

- Review Board data for 1995 indicates that forty percent (40%) of the Areas of Concern² cited by the Review Board were related to legal issues surrounding children in foster care. For example: seventeen percent (17%) of cases reviewed during this time period did not receive timely judicial reviews as per statute and ten percent (10%) of cases reviewed did not have timely merit hearings.

SUPPORTING INITIATIVES/STATUTES:

- The South Carolina General Assembly has passed the *Child Protection Reform Act of 1996*. This legislation revises and improves many aspects of previous Child Protection laws. Implementation of this statute begins January 1, 1997.
- The purpose of the Court Improvement Project, currently underway in South Carolina, is to conduct an assessment of the manner in which the State's Family Court system handles child protection and foster care cases and to develop a plan to improve the operation of the system.
- The Bench/Bar subcommittee of the *South Carolina Families for Kids Project* continues to study ways in which the use of legal resources can be enhanced to better serve South Carolina's foster children.
- The Division of Foster Care Review has added an attorney position to their legal staff to increase the ability of local Review Boards to participate in court hearings involving children under their review.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- All foster children will receive timely court hearings as per the *Child Protection Reform Act of 1996*.
- The amount of time required to process termination of parental rights actions through the Family Court will be reduced resulting in timely placement of children in permanent adoptive homes.
- The Division of Foster Care Review will increase monthly participation in court actions on behalf of children in foster care and reviewed by local Review Boards.

² Areas of Concern are defined as violations of policies or law related to children in foster care in South Carolina.

LOCAL FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS

The 180 volunteers who serve on local Foster Care Review Boards are the power that drives the Division of Foster Care Review. The commitment and dedication afforded to the child welfare system in South Carolina by these concerned community advocates is unmatched. During 1995, members serving on local Foster Care Review Boards donated twelve thousand, eighty-four (12,084) hours of volunteer service to children and families in South Carolina through their work on local Boards. These volunteer hours do not include the many other ways that local Board members advocate for children, families and system reform outside of their monthly meetings.

The unique position afforded to Board members through their service on local boards allows them to penetrate the veil of confidentiality that hides children in foster care and to then appropriately advocate on their behalf. The South Carolina citizen review system is an outstanding example of the way public/private partnerships can work together toward a common goal.

POSITION DESCRIPTION - LOCAL REVIEW BOARD MEMBER

JOB PURPOSE:

Under limited direction from the State Foster Care Review Board, each volunteer actively participates in case reviews of children in foster care. Volunteers attend regular Review Board meetings and participate in Board decisions on children reviewed. Community input is utilized by Board members in assessing steps taken by custodial agency to facilitate permanence for children in foster care. Reviews conducted by review board volunteers fulfill the federal and state statutory requirements for third party review of children in foster care.

JOB DUTIES:

1. Formulates recommendations for permanent plans for cases reviewed; addresses violations of law and policy found in cases reviewed and addresses barriers to permanence that may exist.
2. Examines and evaluates documents relevant to a child's case to determine efforts made by the placing agency towards permanence for the child. These documents include, but are not limited to, case plans, court orders, psychologicals, and related professional reports.
- 3.. Conducts interviews and gathers information from interested parties attending reviews for the purpose of determining efforts toward permanence for the child. These interested parties include, but are not limited to, birth parents, foster parents, caseworkers, casework supervisors, adoption workers, professional treatment staff, attorneys and guardians ad litem.
- 4.. Evaluates and assesses the status of court ordered treatment plans on individual cases reviewed.
5. Participates as necessary in court hearings involving children reviewed.

What knowledge, skills and abilities are needed by an individual for appointment to this position? Where/how would an individual normally acquire these knowledge, skills and abilities?

Service on a local Board is a volunteer position. All members are recommended for appointment by local legislative delegations and appointed for service by the Governor. The main requirements are an interest in children and a willingness to commit the time needed for service.

Describe the training and supervision a volunteer receives in order to do this job.

All appointees operate in a volunteer capacity with limited supervision. Orientation and basic certification training courses are offered within the first year of service with on-going annual training thereafter. Each local Board is assigned a professional staff person who acts as resource and coordinator for the Board.

LOCAL REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS

As of December 31, 1995

REVIEW BOARD MEMBER INFORMATION

Board	Residence	County	Race	Sex	Occupation
<u>Board 1A</u>					
Eleanor Bilton	Holly Hill	Orangeburg	W	F	retired/public health
Vacant	Calhoun				
Doris Boone	St. Matthews	Calhoun	W	F	retired
Valeria Staley	Orangeburg	Orangeburg	B	F	retired educator
Ethel Williams	Elloree	Orangeburg	B	F	retired educator
<u>Board 1B</u>					
Marsha Korpanty	Summerville	Dorchester	W	F	school psychologist
Alice Pinckney	St. George	Dorchester	B	F	retired /education
Ginger Sims	Orangeburg	Orangeburg	W	F	banking
Brenda Wallace	Orangeburg	Orangeburg	B	F	education
Linda Wright	Summerville	Dorchester	W	F	retired/human services
<u>Board 2A</u>					
Margie Blizzard	Perry	Aiken	W	F	retired/sales
Betty Cheatham	Aiken	Aiken	B	F	coordinator/education
Mary Smart	Williston	Barnwell	W	F	retired
Vacant		Barnwell			
Vacant		Aiken			
<u>Board 2B</u>					
Elouise Delaine	Denmark	Bamberg	B	F	retired
Arlene Graves	Denmark	Bamberg	B	F	retired/education
Gail Ristow	Aiken	Aiken	W	F	paralegal
Mary Ann Rogers	Aiken	Aiken	W	F	education
Vacant		Aiken			
<u>Board 3A</u>					
Rosa Conner	Kingstree	Williamsburg	B	F	retired
Kay Kirkpatrick	Manning	Clarendon	W	F	
Lois McInville	Manning	Clarendon	W	F	retired
Laura McKnight	Kingstree	Williamsburg	B	F	retired
Nell Sprott	Manning	Clarendon	W	F	retired/education

Board 3B

Eric Bultman	Sumter	Sumter	B	M	self-employed
Frances Hill	Sumter	Sumter	B	F	program coordinator
Ellen Leventis	Sumter	Sumter	W	F	homemaker
Rose M. Newman	Sumter	Sumter	W	F	homemaker
Ruth Shuford	Bishopville	Lee	W	F	retired

Board 4A

Martha Alderman	Little Rock	Dillon	W	F	homemaker
Sue Brigman	Blenheim	Marlboro	W	F	retired
Willa Johnson	Wallace	Marlboro	W	F	retired
Vacant		Marlboro			
Fred Gough	Dillon	Dillon	W	M	minister

Board 4B

Sarah Campbell	Chesterfield	Chesterfield	W	F	retired/human services
Tommy McCray	Pageland	Chesterfield	W	M	retired
Mary J. McDonald	Hartsville	Darlington	W	F	retired/school guidance
Elizabeth Rivers	Chesterfield	Chesterfield	W	F	retired/school guidance
Wayne Sims	Hartsville	Darlington	W	M	management

Board 5A

Miriam Brown	Columbia	Richland	W	F	administration/human services
Michael Couick	Columbia	Richland	W	M	attorney
Henry Hopkins	Columbia	Richland	B	M	retired
Elise Moore	Columbia	Richland	W	F	consultant
Laverne Neal	Columbia	Richland	B	F	retired/education

Board 5B

Esther Kelly	Columbia	Richland	W	F	retired
Anna Rumsey	Blythewood	Richland	W	F	stockbroker
Jean Slider	Columbia	Richland	W	F	retired
Wilbur Tucker	Columbia	Richland	B	M	retired
Irving Pahl	Columbia	Richland	W	M	retired

Board 5C

Susie Cureton	Columbia	Richland	B	F	education
Clara Dubard	Columbia	Richland	B	F	consultant/education
Mary Havens	Columbia	Richland	W	F	education
Elizabeth Smith	Columbia	Richland	W	F	administration/human services
Ted Moore	Columbia	Richland	W	M	retired

Board 5D

Lillian Adderley	Columbia	Richland	B	F	retired
Judith Hamre	Columbia	Richland	W	F	
Wilhelmina Kennedy	Columbia	Richland	B	F	retired
Louise McFarland	Columbia	Richland	W	F	retired
Annie McNair	Columbia	Richland	B	F	retired

Board 5E

Joseph Connell	Camden	Kershaw	W	M	attorney
Rengy Marshall	Camden	Kershaw	W	F	homemaker
James Murray	Columbia	Richland	B	M	
Eugene Rolllins	Liberty Hill	Kershaw	W	M	minister
Kathy Thornton	Columbia	Richland	W	F	social worker

Board 6A

Vicki Hinson	Lancaster	Lancaster	W	F	nurse
Margarita Pate	Lancaster	Lancaster	W	F	consultant
Rebecca Waldrop	Chester	Chester	W	F	product manager
Herman Young	Blair	Fairfield	B	M	law enforcement
Joe Bagley	Chester	Chester	B	M	retired

Board 7A

Robert Hall	Greer	Spartanburg	W	M	minister
Dorothy Hughes	Spartanburg	Spartanburg	B	F	retired/education
Mary Lynn Melton	Spartanburg	Spartanburg	W	F	
Rita Terrell	Inman	Spartanburg	W	F	homemaker
Delphine Thornton	Roebuck	Spartanburg	B	F	retired

Board 7B

Laura Emrich	Gaffney	Cherokee	W	F	homemaker
Cris Foster	Roebuck	Spartanburg	W	F	retired banker
Judy Hamrick	Gaffney	Spartanburg	W	F	homemaker
Rita Hunt	Woodruff	Spartanburg	W	F	grant writer
James Lane	Gaffney	Cherokee	B	M	minister

Board 8A

Joe Creswell	Iva	Abbeville	W	M	retired/law enforcement
Vacant	Laurens				
Eleanor Litts	Hodges	Greenwood	W	F	retired/farming
Nedra Seymour	Laurens	Laurens	W	F	secretary
Sue Summer	Newberry	Newberry	W	F	communication consultant

Board 9A

Joann Gibbs	Charleston	Charleston	B	F	sales
Gary Goss	Mt. Pleasant	Charleston	W	M	self-employed
Pearl Jenkins	Charleston	Charleston	B	F	homemaker
Jeannette Lee	Mt. Pleasant	Charleston	B	F	homemaker
Mac Radcliffe	Charleston	Charleston	W	M	consultant

Board 9B

William Fletcher	Mcks Corner	Berkeley	W	M	retired
William Godwin	Hanahan	Berkeley	W	M	retired
Christee Hunt	Mcks Corner	Berkeley	W	F	homemaker
Rosetta Mitchell	Goose Creek	Berkeley	B	F	counselor
Winnie Wilson	Mcks Corner	Berkeley	W	F	retired

Board 9C

Jackie Brewer	Charleston	Charleston	W	F	accountant
Evelyn Gregg	Mt. Pleasant	Charleston	B	F	registered nurse
Jill Stevenson	Folly Beach	Charleston	W	F	homemaker
Vacant (2)		Charleston			

Board 9D

Nicholas Cuomo	Charleston	Charleston	W	M	retired
John Henry	N. Charleston	Charleston	W	M	retired
Joan Mack	Charleston	Charleston	B	F	college administrator
Burnet Mendelsohn	Charleston	Charleston	W	M	self-employed
Joanne Penman	Charleston	Charleston	W	F	human services

Board 10A

Carolyn Davis	Walhalla	Oconee	W	F	homemaker
Martha Parker	Seneca	Oconee	W	F	homemaker
George Sloan	Seneca	Oconee	B	M	
Deborah Thrift	Westminster	Oconee	W	F	homemaker
Lucy Wilkerson	Westminster	Oconee	W	F	retired

Board 10B

Linda Alewine	Iva	Anderson	W	F	homemaker
Charles Jowers	Anderson	Anderson	W	M	self-employed
Angie Scott	Anderson	Anderson	B	F	human services
Vacant	Anderson				
Linda Williams	Easley	Anderson	W	F	adoption administrator

Board 11A

Marion Atkins	Columbia	Lexington	W	F	adm/children's shelter
Wendy Dabney	Chapin	Lexington	W	F	court reporter
Judy Hendrix	Gilbert	Lexington	W	F	
Margie Mijares	Pelion	Lexington	W	F	foster parent
Lester Safriet	West Cola.	Lexington	W	M	engineer

Board 11B

Almastine Butler	Saluda	Saluda	B	F	secretary
Adra Forrester	Edgefield	Edgefield	W	F	retired
Gail Nordyke	McCrnick	McCormick	W	M	retired
Mary E. Ouzts	Edgefield	Edgefield	W	F	retired
John Prather	McCrnick	McCormick	W	M	retired

Board 12A

Della Baker	Florence	Florence	B	F	county extension agent
Alice Baker	Florence	Florence	W	F	human resources
Vacant		Florence			
Jane Ketcham	Florence	Florence	W	F	nurse
Henry Moses	Florence	Florence	B	M	retired

Board 12B

Isabelle Bryant	Mullins	Marion	B	F	retired/education
Beatrice James	Florence	Florence	B	F	retired/education
Truman Tart	Nichols	Marion	B	M	minister
Vacant		Florence			
Vacant		Marion			

Board 13A

Janie Dillon	Clemson	Pickens	W	F	retired
Scott Hart	Easley	Pickens	W	M	retired
Thomas Owens	Easley	Pickens	W	M	retired
Janet Reese	Central	Pickens	B	F	retired
Elizabeth Weaver	Easley	Pickens	W	F	certified public accountant

Board 13B

Jane Daniel	Greer	Greenville	W	F	director/volunteer services
Fay Hart	Taylors	Greenville	W	F	mediator
Dorothy Kimbrell	Greenville	Greenville	W	F	homemaker
Tommy Rice	Greenville	Greenville	B	M	adminstration/human services
Janice Turner	Trvlrs Rest	Greenville	B	F	human services

Board 13C

Roberta Anderson	Greenville	Greenville	W	F	education
Jane Bondurant	Greenville	Greenville	W	F	retired
Sara Burnett	Greenville	Greenville	W	F	consultant
Thomas G. Smith	Greenville	Greenville	W	M	insurance
Carol Dunn	Greenville	Greenville	W	F	

Board 14A

Jeannine Cannington	Varnville	Hampton	W	F	retired
Regi Cruse	Fairfax	Allendale	W	M	minister
Daisy Lawton	Varnville	Hampton	B	F	guidance counsellor
Norton Rosebrock	Walterboro	Colleton	W	M	minister
Vacant		Colleton			

Board 14B

Emma Jones	Pineland	Jasper	B	F	retired
Ollie McAlister	Ridgeland	Jasper	B	F	retired/human services
Thelma Miller	Beaufort	Beaufort	B	F	retired
Jessica Murphey	Hltn Head	Beaufort	W	F	sales
Bobsy Simes	Hltn Head	Beaufort	W	F	artist/oils

Board 15A

Vacant		Georgetown			
Warren Cooper	Pawleys Isnd	Georgetown	W	M	real estate
David Drayton	Georgetown	Georgetown	B	M	retired
Pat Schooler	Georgetown	Georgetown	W	F	optician
Vacant		Georgetown			

Board 15B

Roszena Soles	Nichols	Horry	B	F	beautician
Al Fanshaw	Conway	Horry	W	M	retired
Carol Landberg	Surfside Bch	Horry	W	F	college administrator
Greg Killian	Myrtle Beach	Horry	W	M	therapist
Nita Sparks	Conway	Horry	W	F	retired

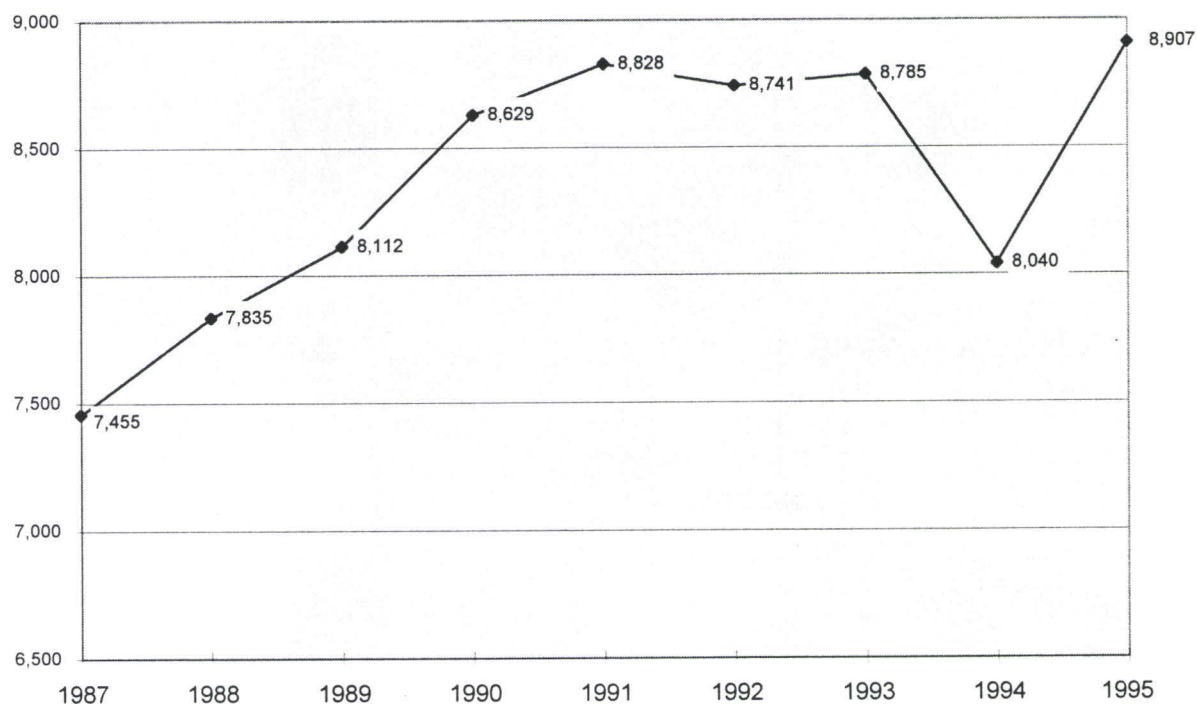
Board 16A

Nadara Andrews	Clover	York	W	F	self-employed
Martha Cowan	Rock Hill	York	W	F	homemaker
Marguerite Bradley	Union	Union	W	F	retired
Dorothy Gist	Union	Union	B	F	retired/human services
Susan Langford	York	York	W	F	retired/human services

STATISTICAL INFORMATION - REVIEWS CONDUCTED BY REVIEW BOARDS
JANUARY 1, 1995 - DECEMBER 31, 1995

The Review Board conducted a total of eight thousand, nine hundred and seven (8907) reviews in 1995 on a total of five thousand, one hundred and twenty-eight (5128) children in public foster care.³ This is an eleven percent (11%) increase over the number of reviews conducted by local Boards during 1994. One additional Review Board was created by the State Board of Directors at the end of 1994 to facilitate reviews for the increasing population of children entering the foster care system.

TABLE A
REVIEWS CONDUCTED BY FCRB
1987 - 1995

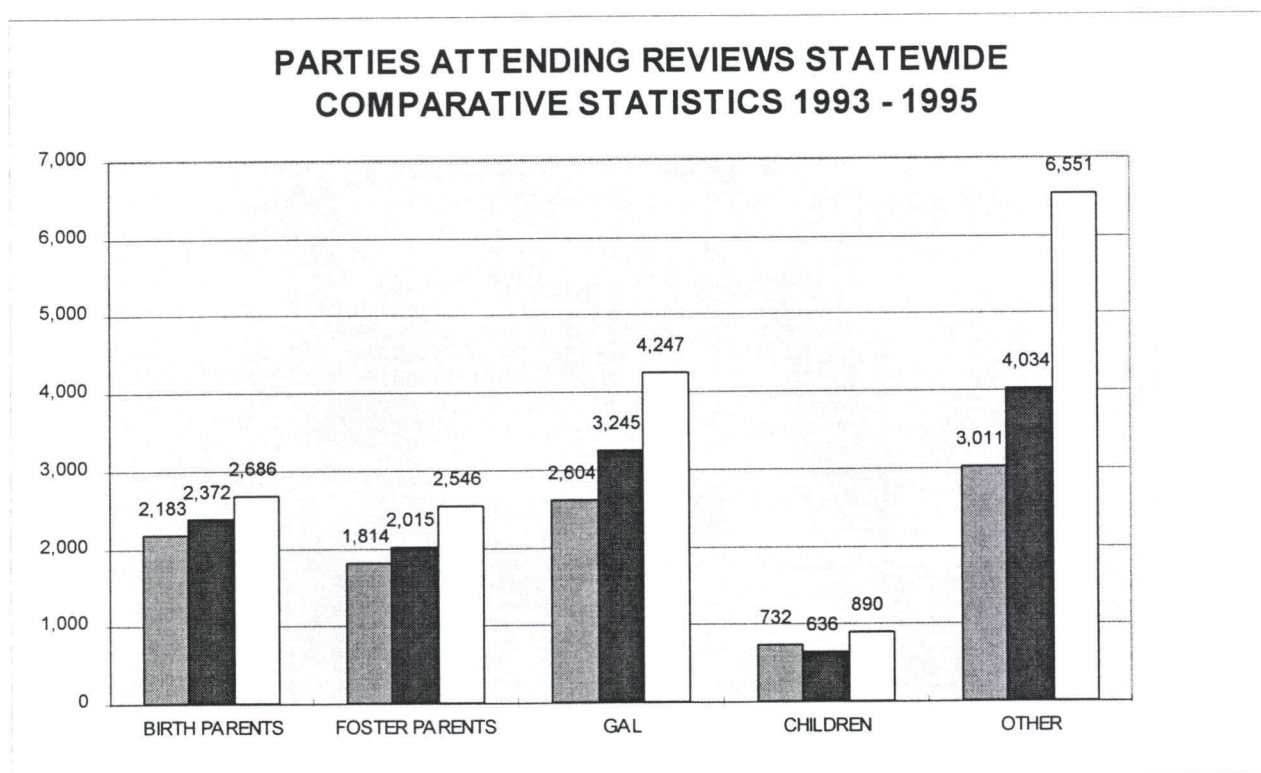


³ Effective January 1, 1994, children privately placed in private children's homes were no longer reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board. Statutory authority was granted to the Review Board in Proviso #6DD.39 of the Fiscal Year 93/94 budget to cease these reviews. The General Assembly believed it to be a more appropriate use of state dollars to focus reviews on the cases of children who are in the custody of the State rather than private cases.

PARTICIPATION BY INTERESTED PARTIES AT LOCAL REVIEWS

Table B compares the number of interested parties attending reviews in 1993, 1994 and 1995. The 1995 attendance totals reflect a thirty-eight percent (38%) increase in attendance compared to attendance at reviews in 1994. The attendance by all interested parties provides the Review Board with important information used to make recommendations.

TABLE B



RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED BY LOCAL REVIEW BOARDS

Local Review Boards carefully consider input from all interested parties, as well as written materials prepared for the review, prior to making a recommendation on each child's case. After Board members have heard from all parties present for the review, all parties are excused and the Board meets privately to formulate the recommendation for the child. Board members are required by statute to consider the most appropriate permanent recommendation possible for each child. They also must determine whether all parties involved in the child's case are taking the steps necessary to achieve the plan in a timely manner.

Review Boards issue a written recommendation for a permanent placement on each case reviewed. Table C describes the frequency, type and percentage for each of the eleven recommendations issued by local Review Boards on cases reviewed during 1995.

TABLE C
STATEWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS - 1995

Time Period: 1/1/95-12/31/95

RECOMMENDATION	FREQUENCY	% OF TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS
1) TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS	3,329	37.4
2) RETURN TO PARENT	2,185	24.5
3) INDEPENDENT LIVING	1,165	13.1
4) PERMANENT FOSTER CARE	859	9.6
5) ADOPTION	592	6.6
6) RELATIVE PLACEMENT	339	3.8
7) CASE CONTINUED	285	3.2
8) RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT	68	0.8
9) NO REVIEW	59	0.7
10) PERMANENT GROUP HOME	21	0.2
11) OTHER	5	0.1
TOTALS:	8,907	100

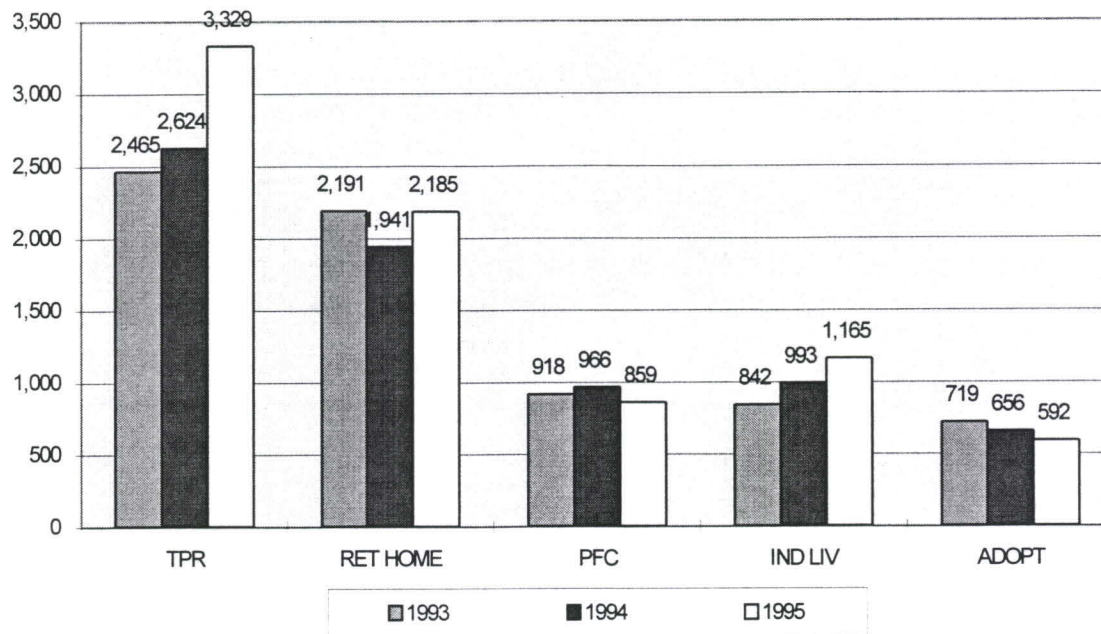
*Reflects only those children reviewed by the Review Board for the first time during 1995.

Table D compares the frequency of the five plans most recommended by local Review Boards during 1993, 1994 and 1995. Data in Table D indicates that there has been a thirty-five percent (35%) increase in the number of recommendations for termination of parental rights when comparing 1993 and 1995 data. There has been a twenty-seven percent (27%) increase in termination recommendations from 1994 to 1995. Recommendations for return home have

increased by thirteen percent (13%) when comparing 1994 to 1995 data and recommendations for independent living have increased by seventeen percent (17%) for the same time periods.

TABLE D

**STATEWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 1993 - 1995**



AREAS OF CONCERN IDENTIFIED BY LOCAL REVIEW BOARDS

Since a major focus of the Foster Care Review Board is to help systems work for children, the identification and analysis of significant barriers or concerns which may prevent timely, permanent placement is essential. Areas of Concern are defined as violations of federal law, state law or public agency policy which have been determined by the Review Board to be significant barriers in the provision of permanency planning services to children in foster care. The Area of Concern definitions are presented beginning on page 25 of this report.

Please note that although the Department of Social Services holds custody and service delivery responsibility for the five thousand one hundred and twenty-eight (5128) children in public foster care reviewed by the Boards in 1995, the Department of Social Services is not responsible for all of the barriers or deficiencies mentioned in this report. Service delivery to foster children

involves the complex interaction of many systems, any one of which may be a contributing factor which prolongs a child's stay in foster care.

Areas of Concern

For purposes of data analysis, the twenty-one Areas of Concern tracked by the Foster Care Review Board during 1995 are divided into three categories: legal, program and Foster Care Review Board. Definitions of these three categories are as follows:

- 1) Legal - Violations of federal statutory requirements related to PL 96-272; violations of state law in regard to timeliness of court hearings and adoption proceedings; and non-compliance with court orders.
- 2) Program - Violations of programmatic policies and procedures established by public agencies related to the delivery of child welfare services. Areas of Concern in this area deal with violations of public agency policy regarding service delivery to foster children and their families. These programmatic Areas of Concern reflect inadequacies in the funding and/or delivery of services to foster children.
- 3) Foster Care Review Board - Violations of regulations related to foster care review that have been enacted by the General Assembly. The issuance of a Recommendation by the Foster Care Review Board is predicated upon the receipt of appropriate information from the presenting agency; therefore, specific information to be provided for each review by the presenting agency is outlined in regulations promulgated pursuant to South Carolina Code Section 20-7-2379.

Statewide totals for each Area of Concern and associated percentages are presented on page 28 of this report. Totals and percentages for each county and area adoption office are presented on pages 29-34.

STATEWIDE AREAS OF CONCERN
January 1, 1995 - December 31, 1995

NUMBER OF REVIEWS FOR TIME PERIOD:8907
% TOTAL REVIEWS WITH AREAS OF CONCERN:54.9

<u>AREA OF CONCERN</u>	<u>FREQUENCY OF AREAS OF CONCERN</u>	<u>% OF STATE TOTAL AREAS OF CONCERN</u>
<u>LEGAL</u>		
NO TIMELY TEN DAY HEARING	84	1.0
NO TIMELY MERIT HEARING	802	9.7
NO TIMELY JUDICIAL REVIEW	1422	17.2
NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDER	421	5.1
NO COURT ORDER AT REVIEW	499	6.1
ADOPTION COMPLAINT NOT FILED TIMELY	20	0.2
ADOPTION NOT CONSUMMATED TIMELY	8	0.1
OTHER STATUTORY VIOLATIONS	36	0.4
Subtotal	3292	39.8
<u>PROGRAM</u>		
NO CASE PLAN	173	2.1
INCOMPLETE CASE PLAN	1265	15.3
NO CASE PLAN WITHIN 60 DAYS	202	2.4
NO PROGRESS ON PERMANENT PLAN	239	2.9
AGENCY POLICY PROCEDURE VIOLATION	2090	25.3
Subtotal	3969	48.2
<u>FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD</u>		
ENTRY NOT REPORTED TIMELY	97	1.2
NO TIMELY FCRB: CW ABSENT	57	0.7
PARTIES NOT INVITED TO ATTEND	424	5.1
NO THREE WEEK NOTICE TO PARTIES	183	2.2
NO PSYCHOLOGICALS AT REVIEW	36	0.4
NO NON-CONCURRENCE SUBMITTED	155	1.9
INACCURATE INFO AT REVIEW	22	0.3
OTHER	10	0.1
Subtotal	984	11.9
TOTALS:	6592	100.0

AREA OF CONCERN DEFINITIONS

Revised, January 1995

LEGAL

1. **NO TIMELY TEN DAY HEARING**

SC Code Section 20-7-610

The ten day hearing was not **completed** within the 10 day time frame stipulated by law or has not been held at all.

2. **NO TIMELY MERIT**

SC Code Section 20-7-610
SC Code Section 20-7-736

Merit hearing was not **completed** within the 40 day time frame stipulated by law or has not been held at all.

3. **NO TIMELY JUDICIAL REVIEW**

SC Code Section 20-7-766
PL 96-272-Section 471(a)(16)
PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(c)

Judicial review was not **completed** within time frames stipulated by state or federal requirements or has not been held at all.

4. **NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDER**

Agency is not in compliance with court order.

5. **NO COURT ORDER AT REVIEW**

FCRB Reg.24-15(P)
SC Family Court Rule 26(C)

A hearing was held at least 30 days prior to the Review Board meeting and copy of the court order was not available

6. **ADOPTION COMPLAINT NOT FILED TIMELY**

SC Code Section 20-7-1730

Adoptive placement agreements have been signed and the adoption complaint was not filed within the time frame stipulated by law or has not been filed at all.

7. **ADOPTION CONSUMMATION NOT TIMELY**

SC Code Section 20-7-1760

Adoption complaint has been filed and hearing not held within the time frame stipulated by law.

8. **OTHER STATUTORY VIOLATIONS (Examples)**

SC Code Section 20-7-110
SC Code Section 20-7-124
SC Code Section 20-7-1570

A GAL was not appointed as required by law or the GAL was not notified of court hearings pertaining to child.

SC Code Section 20-7-1980

Child(ren) placed across state lines without full compliance with requirements of Interstate Compact.

SC Code Section 20-7-610

Noncustodial parent not notified of proceedings.

PROGRAM

9. NO CASE PLAN

PL 96-272-Section 471(a)(16)
PL 96-272-Section 475(1)
PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(A)

A case plan was not presented to the Review Board at the time of the review, or the time frames on the most recent case plan document have expired. (If a case plan is presented, but a copy is not provided to the Review Board at the time of the review, this is cited as a policy and procedure violation.)

10. INCOMPLETE CASE PLAN

PL 96-272-Section 471(a)(16)
PL 96-272-Section 475(1)
PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(A)&(B)
42 U.S.C. 675(1)

Treatment objectives were not defined in the case plan; the case plan was not signed by the parent(s) and there was no indication as to why that was not possible; or other parts of the 3016 Case Plan document were incomplete.

11. NO CASE PLAN WITHIN 60 DAYS

DSS Directive Memo D88-210
PL 96-272-Section 471(a)(16)
PL 96-272-Section 475(1)
PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(A)

A case plan was not initiated with the parent(s) within the first 60 days of placement as per agency policy and federal guidelines.

12. NO PROGRESS PERMANENT PLAN

PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(B)

No progress was made to achieve permanent plan within the past six months.

13. POLICY/PROCEDURE VIOLATION

Violations of DSS policies/procedures as outlined in agency policy manuals were documented during the case review.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD ISSUES

14. NO NON-CONCURRENCE SUBMITTED

FCRB Reg. 24-35
SC Code Section 20-7-2391

Agency did not submit a written non-concurrence within 21 days of receipt of the pre-review Board recommendation as per statute.

15. INTERESTED PARTIES NOT INVITED

FCRB Reg. 24-9

Review was continued because interested parties specified by Review Board regulations were not invited to the review.

16. NO THREE WEEKS NOTICE

FCRB Reg. 24-9

Interested parties invited to the review did not receive three weeks advance notice as required.

17. NO PSYCHOLOGICAL AT REVIEW

FCRB Reg. 24-15 (Q)(R)
(30 days our internal guideline)

A psychological evaluation was completed at least 30 days prior to review and a copy of this report was not available for the Review Board as per regulation.

18. NO TIMELY FCRB: WORKER ABSENT

FCRB Reg. 24-23(B)

A review was not held because the caseworker (or designated agency personnel) was not present to make a presentation to the Review Board or was not prepared to present case to the Review Board.

19. ENTRY NOT REPORTED TIMELY

FCRB Reg. 24-17(A)

Child's entry into foster care was not reported on time to schedule a timely review per statute.

20. INACCURATE INFORMATION AT REVIEW

Information is provided after the review which contradicts information presented during the review.

21. OTHER

Case specific concerns that do not fall into above categories. These usually apply to case work issues (i.e., sibling remaining in home determined to be at risk, needs of foster child not being met, foster child not enrolled in school for unreasonable period of time).

AREAS OF CONCERN
COMPARATIVE STATS 1994-1995

COUNTY	% Reviews w/AOC 1994	% Reviews w/AOC 1995	# OF Reviews 1994	# OF Reviews 1995	COUNTY	% Reviews w/AOC 1994	% Reviews w/AOC 1995	# OF Reviews 1994	# OF Reviews 1995
ABBEVILLE	27.3%	46.5%	44	43	GREENWOOD	23.7%	52.8%	59	72
AIKEN	73.5%	78.3%	404	428	HAMPTON	5.6%	37.3%	54	59
ALLENDALE	64.8%	83.3%	54	48	HORRY	39.7%	36.0%	501	525
ANDERSON	26.6%	33.9%	350	354	JASPER	7.7%	41.9%	13	31
BAMBERG	19.0%	23.3%	79	73	KERSHAW	43.8%	45.5%	96	99
BARNWELL	70.0%	36.6%	100	82	LANCASTER	42.7%	38.9%	110	149
BEAUFORT	67.5%	71.5%	160	165	LAURENS	34.8%	64.9%	66	77
BERKELEY	59.1%	72.6%	254	270	LEE	29.5%	23.1%	44	52
CALHOUN	27.3%	20.0%	22	25	LEXINGTON	47.0%	60.1%	132	198
CHARLESTON	50.1%	65.8%	747	916	MARION	13.4%	32.9%	142	140
CHEROKEE	62.0%	47.0%	92	100	MARLBORO	22.8%	45.6%	57	57
CHESTER	43.8%	43.0%	73	86	MCCORMICK	5.9%	78.9%	17	19
CHESTERFIELD	43.3%	48.5%	60	66	NEWBERRY	55.6%	56.9%	27	51
CLARENDON	50.3%	51.9%	187	131	OCONEE	48.1%	63.9%	104	133
COLLETON	75.7%	80.9%	148	136	ORANGEBURG	23.7%	25.0%	245	280
DARLINGTON	16.3%	30.3%	80	99	PICKENS	22.7%	28.3%	97	99
DILLON	15.3%	46.8%	59	77	RICHLAND	83.1%	75.0%	977	1084
DORCHESTER	78.4%	77.7%	139	175	SALUDA	39.3%	59.2%	84	71
EDGEFIELD	64.4%	38.9%	73	72	SPARTANBURG	17.6%	41.5%	381	475
FAIRFIELD	59.7%	13.8%	67	58	SUMTER	64.2%	59.7%	179	206
FLORENCE	55.8%	63.9%	361	382	UNION	87.5%	100%	16	9
GEORGETOWN	41.6%	51.0%	101	98	WILLIAMSBURG	46.6%	6.4%	58	47
GREENVILLE	51.5%	46.5%	447	486	YORK	29.8%	79.1%	178	263

AREA ADOPTIONS

Area Adopt I	59.7%	46.6%	62	58	Area Adopt IV	21.3%	8.9%	47	56
Area Adopt II	33.3%	42.9%	45	49	Area Adopt V	32.4%	49.3%	37	69
Area Adopt III	26.5%	17.6%	68	85	Area Adopt VI	16.3%	41.7%	43	24

AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY

JANUARY 1, 1995 - DECEMBER 31, 1995

	AREA I	AREA II	AREA III	AREA IV	AREA V	AREA VI	ABBEVILLE	AKEN	ALLEDALE	ANDERSON
Legal										
No Timely Ten Day Hearing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
No Timely Merit Hearing	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	57	-	47
No Timely Judicial Review	6	2	3	4	12	3	3	106	3	32
Non-Compliance w/Court Order	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	26	3	4
No Court Order at Review	-	2	6	-	6	-	1	28	8	2
Adopt. Complaint Not Filed	12	-	3	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
Adopt. Not Consummated Timely	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Statutory Violations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Subtotal	25	4	14	5	18	6	12	217	16	87
Program										
No Case Plan	-	4	-	-	1	-	2	21	7	1
Incomplete Case Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	165	18	11
No Case Plan w/in 60 Days	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	1	1
No Progress on Permanent Plan	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	41	6	-
Agency Policy/Proc. Violation	1	6	2	1	-	3	15	164	19	33
Sub-Total	1	11	2	1	1	3	24	410	51	46
Foster Care Review Board										
Entry Not Reported Timely	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
No Timely FCRB: CW Absent	-	7	-	-	6	-	-	5	-	-
Interested Parties Not Invited	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	37	2	12
No 3 Week Notice to Parties	-	-	1	-	9	-	1	53	-	-
No Psychologicals at Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
No Non-Concurrence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	3
Inaccurate Info at Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total	3	9	2	0	16	1	1	108	5	16
Totals:										
Areas of Concern	29	24	18	6	35	10	37	735	72	149
Number of Children*	47	37	76	51	47	21	24	246	27	223
Reviews of Children**	58	49	85	56	69	24	43	428	48	354
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	27	21	15	5	34	10	20	335	40	120
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	46.6	42.9	17.6	8.9	49.3	41.7	46.5	78.3	83.3	33.9

*Indicates an unduplicated count of the number of children reviewed in each county/area during the time period.

**Indicates the total number of reviews conducted for the time period; some children receive more than one review during the calendar year.

AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY

JANUARY 1, 1995 - DECEMBER 31, 1995

	BAMBERG	BARWELL	BEAUFORT	BERKELEY	CALHOUN	CHARLESTON	CHEROKEE	CHESTER	CHESTERFIELD	CLARENDON	COLLETON
Legal											
No Timely Ten Day Hearing	—	—	2	22	—	14	1	—	—	—	1
No Timely Merit Hearing	—	2	15	53	—	113	8	1	10	—	27
No Timely Judicial Review	—	12	19	90	1	179	13	4	3	37	45
Non-Compliance w/ Court Order	1	1	73	9	—	14	8	—	—	—	19
No Court Order at Review	1	1	6	28	1	76	16	10	—	—	8
Adopt. Complaint Not Filed	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Adopt. Not Consummated Timely	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Other Statutory Violations	6	—	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Sub - Total	8	16	122	207	2	399	46	15	13	37	105
Program											
No Case Plan	—	—	2	7	—	22	1	—	—	3	4
Incomplete Case Plan	3	1	32	45	1	147	2	8	13	9	27
No Case Plan w/in 60 Days	—	2	16	12	—	6	1	—	—	—	1
No Progress on Permanent Plan	4	—	12	6	—	14	—	—	—	—	14
Agency Policy/Proc. Violation	11	16	72	23	1	206	14	17	13	26	69
Sub-Total	18	19	134	93	2	395	18	25	26	38	115
Foster Care Review Board											
Entry Not Reported Timely	—	—	1	1	—	5	—	—	—	1	1
No Timely FCRB: CW Absent	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—
Interested Parties Not Invited	—	—	4	17	—	63	1	1	—	1	7
No Three Week Notice to Parties	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No Psychologicals at Review	—	—	4	2	1	9	—	—	2	—	—
No Non-Concurrence	—	7	2	2	—	13	—	8	2	—	2
Incorrect Info at Review	—	—	4	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Sub-Total	0	7	15	23	1	105	1	10	4	2	10
Totals:											
Areas of Concern	26	42	271	323	5	899	65	50	43	77	230
Number of Children*	40	50	97	167	16	518	55	50	43	73	74
Reviews of Children**	73	82	165	270	25	916	100	86	66	131	136
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	17	30	118	196	5	603	47	37	32	68	110
% Reviews w/ Areas of Concern	23.3	36.6	71.5	72.6	20.0	65.8	47.0	43.0	48.5	51.9	80.9

*Indicates an unduplicated count of the number of children reviewed in each county/area during the time period.

**Indicates the total number of reviews conducted for the time period; some children receive more than one review during the calendar year.

AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY

JANUARY 1, 1995 - DECEMBER 31, 1995

	DARLINGTON	DILLON	DORCHESTER	EDGEFIELD	FAIRFIELD	FLORENCE	GEORGETOWN	GREENVILLE	GREENWOOD	HAMPTON	HORRY	JASPER
Legal												
No Timely Ten Day Hearing	2	—	11	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
No Timely Merit	17	4	31	7	—	44	16	18	15	2	41	2
No Timely Judicial Review	3	4	47	1	2	81	16	62	5	1	37	2
Non-Compliance with Court Order	—	—	8	—	1	21	—	29	2	3	11	—
No Court Order at Review	—	2	33	—	—	9	3	26	4	5	17	—
Adopt. Complaint Not Filed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Adopt Not Consummated Timely	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Statutory Violations	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	—
Sub - Total	22	10	130	8	3	158	37	136	26	14	106	4
Program												
No Case Plan	—	—	14	—	—	8	—	13	—	—	7	—
Incomplete Case Plan	10	17	36	13	1	40	5	63	9	1	29	6
No Case Plan W/in 60 Days	—	—	14	—	—	5	1	6	—	—	3	—
No Progress on Permanent Plan	1	1	6	—	—	18	1	—	—	—	11	—
Agency Policy Proc. Violation	19	22	65	10	4	131	24	83	19	6	85	6
Sub-Total	30	40	135	23	5	202	31	165	28	7	135	12
Foster Care Review Board												
Entry not Reported Timely	—	—	9	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
No Timely FCRB: CW Absent	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	—
Interested Parties Not Invited	6	5	24	—	1	15	1	18	1	5	10	4
No Three Week Notice to Parties	2	6	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
No Psychologicals at Review	—	—	2	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	1	—
No Non-Concurrence	—	4	3	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	2	—
Incorrect Info at Review	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Sub-Total	8	15	47	3	3	25	2	24	1	5	22	4
Totals:												
Areas of Concern	60	65	312	34	11	385	70	325	55	26	263	20
Number of Children*	63	43	101	40	33	226	58	287	42	35	301	16
Reviews of Children**	99	77	175	72	58	382	98	486	72	59	525	31
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	30	36	136	28	8	244	50	226	38	22	189	13
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	30.3	46.8	77.7	38.9	13.8	63.9	51.0	46.5	52.8	37.3	41.9	7.7

*Indicates an unduplicated county of the number of children reviewed in each county/area during the time period.

**Indicates the total number of reviews conducted for the time period; some children receive more than one review during the calendar year.

AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY

JANUARY 1, 1995 - DECEMBER 31, 1995

	KERSHAW	LANCASTER	LAURENS	LEE	LEWISTON	MARION	MARLBORO	MCCORMICK	NEWBERRY	OCONEE	ORANGEBURG
Legal											
No Timely Ten Day Hearing	--	--	--	--	--	1	6	--	--	--	2
No Timely Merit	4	6	9	--	26	2	9	5	4	14	27
No Timely Judicial Review	10	16	16	8	38	2	3	--	3	15	5
Non-Compliance with Court Order	10	--	--	--	4	15	--	--	--	--	5
No Court Order at Review	3	3	--	--	2	1	--	1	5	8	7
Adopt. Complaint Not Filed	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adoption Not Consummated Timely	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Statutory Violations	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sub - Total	27	25	26	8	70	21	18	6	12	37	46
Program											
No Case Plan	5	--	1	--	3	--	--	--	1	6	2
Incomplete Case Plan	16	9	13	--	35	8	2	7	12	28	2
No Case Plan W/in 60 Days	1	3	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--
No Progress on Permanent Plan	--	--	--	--	12	8	3	--	--	5	4
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	16	28	27	8	64	22	9	8	25	25	21
Sub-Total	38	40	43	8	114	38	14	15	41	64	29
Foster Care Review Board											
Entry not Reported Timely	1	1	--	--	2	--	--	--	2	8	1
No Timely FCRB: CW Absent	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Interested Parties Not Invited	2	1	6	2	18	2	1	--	2	6	1
No Three Week Notice to Parties	--	--	2	--	--	--	4	--	--	--	2
No Psychologicals at Review	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--
No Non-Concurrence	2	--	2	--	--	--	3	2	--	--	5
Incorrect Info at Review	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	1	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	--
Sub-Total	5	2	11	2	21	2	8	2	7	14	9
Totals:											
Areas of Concern	70	67	80	18	205	61	40	23	60	115	84
Number of Children*	57	88	46	27	112	81	38	14	27	82	167
Reviews of Children**	99	149	77	52	198	140	57	19	51	133	280
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	45	58	50	12	119	46	26	15	29	85	70
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	45.5	38.9	64.9	23.1	60.1	32.9	45.6	78.9	56.9	63.9	25.0

*Indicates an unduplicated county of the number of children reviewed in each county/area during the time period.

**Indicates the total number of reviews conducted for the time period; some children receive more than one review during the calendar year.

AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY

JANUARY 1, 1995 - DECEMBER 31, 1995

	PICKENS	RICHLAND	SALUDA	SPARTANBURG	SUMTER	UNION	WILLIAMSBURG	YORK	GRAND TOTAL
Legal									
No Timely Ten Day Hearing	1	9	3	1	--	--	--	3	84
No Timely Merit	9	59	3	51	8	--	--	30	82
No Timely Judicial Review	8	325	3	35	49	--	2	46	1422
Non-Compliance with Court Order	--	108	1	--	9	4	--	26	421
No Court Order at Review	--	107	3	7	--	1	--	52	499
Adopt. Complaint Not Filed	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Adoption Not Consummated Timely	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
Other Statutory Violations	--	--	--	--	4	--	--	1	36
Sub - Total	18	608	13	94	70	5	2	158	3292
Program									
No Case Plan	--	4	--	1	14	1	--	18	173
Incomplete Case Plan	1	217	12	54	37	3	--	90	1265
No Case Plan W/in 60 Days	--	75	3	4	10	--	--	13	202
No Progress on Permanent Plan	--	57	--	8	3	--	--	3	239
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	11	390	34	62	47	3	3	101	2090
Sub-Total	12	743	49	129	111	7	3	225	3969
Foster Care Review Board									
Entry not Reported Timely	--	45	--	1	3	1	--	--	97
No Timely FCRB: CW Absent	--	22	3	--	--	--	--	--	57
Interested Parties Not Invited	--	70	5	16	18	3	1	31	424
No Three Week Notice to Parties	--	81	3	6	--	--	--	2	183
No Psychologicals at Review	1	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	36
No Non-Concurrence	--	64	--	8	6	--	--	1	155
Incorrect Info at Review	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	22
Other	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	10
Sub-Total	1	293	11	32	27	4	1	34	984
Totals:									
Areas of Concern	31	1644	73	255	208	16	6	417	8245
Number of Children*	58	618	38	292	118	6	26	154	5128
Reviews of Children**	99	1084	71	475	206	9	47	263	8907
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	28	813	42	197	123	9	3	208	4888
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	28.3	75.0	59.2	41.5	59.7	100	6.4	79.1	54.9

*Indicates an unduplicated county of the number of children reviewed in each county/area during the time period.

**Indicates the total number of reviews conducted for the time period; some children receive more than one review during the calendar year.

ADVOCACY - CASE REFERRAL PROCESS

Review Board Coordinators may initiate personal follow-up on cases in their assigned caseloads. Data for 1995 indicates that six hundred and twenty-eight (628) children received individual attention by Coordinators on specific issues following reviews. In addition to the individual follow-up done by Review Board Coordinators, the Division of Foster Care Review operates a three tiered referral process to facilitate additional advocacy efforts on behalf of children reviewed by local Review Boards. The ability of local Review Boards to advocate individually on behalf of children in foster care in South Carolina is vital to the overall effectiveness of the Review System.

Legal Referrals

The Review Board employs a full-time attorney to operate as General Counsel for the Review Board. Any legal action recommended by the local Review Board must be initiated by the State Review Board Office and is subject to approved policies and procedures. Local Review Boards refer any cases they feel necessary on behalf of a child to the State Office staff for assessment. Through participation in Family Court hearings and individual legal follow-up on cases reviewed, the Review Board is able not only to educate, but also to advocate with judges, attorneys and other individuals who may impact the child's case. General Counsel for the Division is active with various groups who work to draft legislation on children's issues and functions as legal counsel to all local Review Boards and the State Board.

Administrative Referrals

The Division of Foster Care Review always seeks to resolve issues through administrative channels if at all possible prior to seeking Family Court intervention. The Project Administrator position is used to facilitate a large part of the follow-up necessary on individual cases. Letters, telephone calls, case staffings and other administrative functions are handled by this position in an effort to resolve issues of concern to local Review Boards.

Therapeutic/Medicaid Referrals

The Division of Foster Care Review operates a quality assurance review system for emotionally disturbed Medicaid eligible children who reside in residential treatment placements. The program was initiated pursuant to a contract with the Department of Health and Human Services and has been operational since April, 1992. Local Review Boards who have concerns about the quality of treatment, or the appropriateness of a therapeutic placement may make a referral to the Medicaid Review Specialist. The Medicaid Review Specialist may arrange a separate Medicaid staffing with appropriate parties, or conduct additional inquiries relative to the case.

During 1995, Review Board staff made post-review referrals and advocacy efforts on a total of thirteen hundred and thirty two (1332) children. This number indicates that follow-up advocacy efforts were made on twenty-six percent (26%) of the children active in the system during this time period. Table F describes the number and type of administrative referrals made by local Review Boards during 1995.

TABLE F

RBC Follow-Up	628
Legal	337
Administrative	228
Therapeutic/Medicaid	170
TOTAL	1363

DEMOGRAPHIC AND COMPARATIVE DATA

POPULATION OF FOSTER CHILDREN REVIEWED BY THE

DIVISION OF FOSTER CARE REVIEW

January 1, 1995 through December 31, 1995

SUMMARY STATISTICS - SELECTED VARIABLES

COMPARATIVE DATA 1994 - 1995

Review Data	1994	1995	Variance
Children Reviewed	4625	5128	11% increase
Number of Reviews	8040	8907	11% increase
Children w/ AOC	49.50%	54.90%	5% increase
Descriptive Data			
White	1597 (35%)	1744 (34%)	9% increase
Black	2914 (63%)	3241 (63%)	11% increase
Other	95 (2%)	143 (3%)	51% increase
Male	2298 (50%)	2542 (50%)	11% increase
Female	2327 (50%)	2586 (50%)	n/a
Placements Related to Substance Abuse	372 (43%)	510 (50%)	37% increase
Reviews of Children in Therapeutic Medicaid Placements	2032 (25%)	2269 (26%)	12% increase
System Data			
# Children Entering Placement Reasons	871	1019	17% increase
Neglect	427 (49%)	542 (53%)	27% increase
Abuse	288 (33%)	293 (29%)	2% increase
Voluntary	56 (6%)	83 (8%)	48% increase
Abandonment	25 (3%)	28 (3%)	12% increase
Dependency	48 (6%)	46 (5%)	4% decrease
Juvenile Offense	16 (9%)	14 (1%)	13% decrease
Relinquishment	11 (1%)	13 (1%)	18% decrease
Length of Time in Care Active Cases	3.2 years	3.0 years	6% decrease
# Children Leaving Care	1218	1273	5% increase
Return Home	495 (44%)	565 (44%)	14% increase
Adoption	247 (20%)	213 (17%)	16% decrease
Emancipation	217 (18%)	270 (21%)	24% increase
Relative/Non Parent	197 (16%)	211 (17%)	7% increase
Other	62 (5%)	8 (0.6%)	87% decrease
Deceased	not tracked	6 (0.5%)	N/A
Length of Time in Care Closed Cases	2.9 years	2.7 years	7% decrease

**DEMOGRAPHIC AND COMPARATIVE DATA
ON THE POPULATION OF FOSTER CHILDREN
REVIEWED BY THE
DIVISION OF FOSTER CARE REVIEW**

JANUARY 1, 1995 - DECEMBER 31, 1995

Who are the children reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board?

During 1995, one thousand and sixteen (1016) children entered the system and had their first review, thirteen hundred and twenty-three children (1323) left foster care and five thousand, one hundred and twenty-eight (5128) children were active in the system. Data presented⁴ in the following tables presents descriptive information on children reviewed by their ages, race and sex.

Statistical Comparison by Age

Tables A, B and C compare the number of children in select age groups who entered the Review Board System, the number who left the system, and the number of children who remained active in the Review Board System during 1995.

Table A shows that most of the children entering the foster care system during 1995 were between the ages of ten and fifteen. (Table B indicates that this age group also was the largest group active in the foster care system). However, Table C shows that children in the system older than sixteen left foster care in the largest numbers, indicating that children in the ten to fifteen year old grouping may be staying in the system until they reach the age of majority rather than being placed in a permanent home.

⁴ The Division of Foster Care Review implemented an in-house computer information system in 1987. Each year changes and revisions are made, as necessary, in data collection methods in order to enhance the system and to provide better utilization of data. Questions related to data comparison should be referred to the Governor's Office, Division of Foster Care Review.

TABLE A

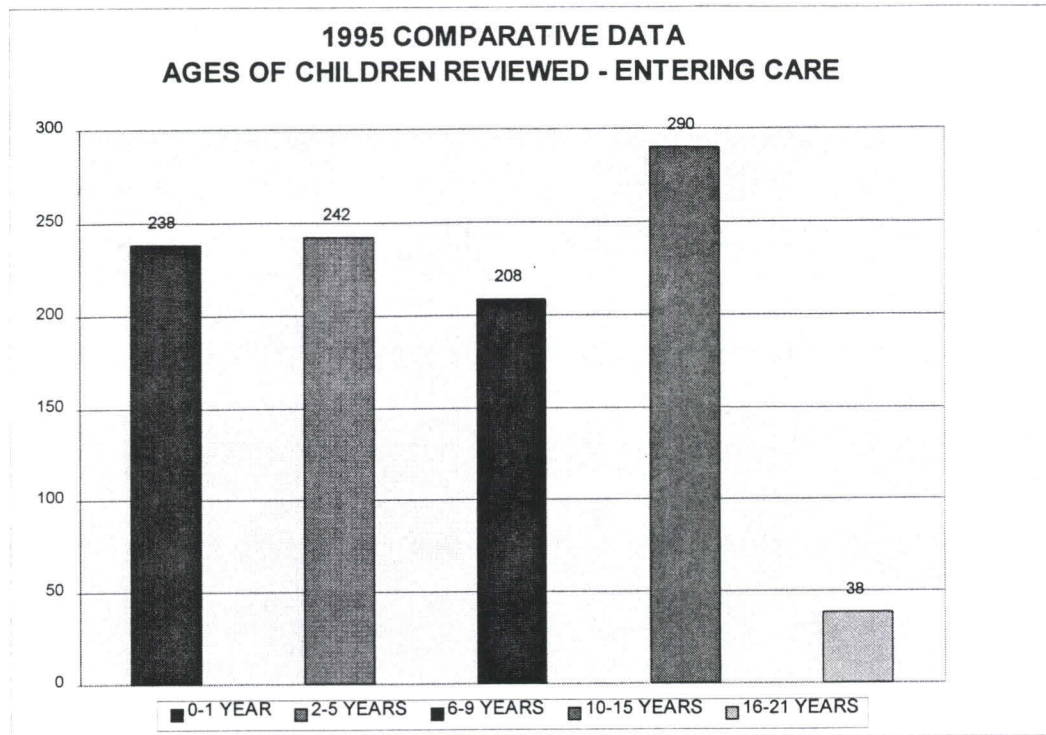


TABLE B

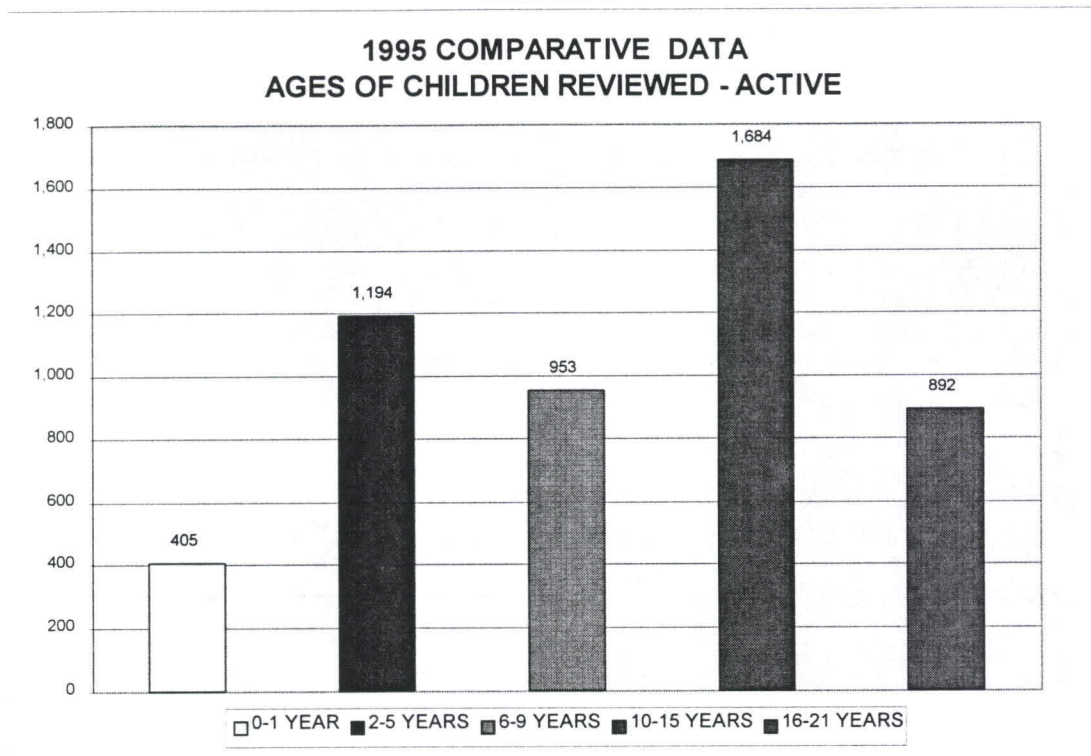
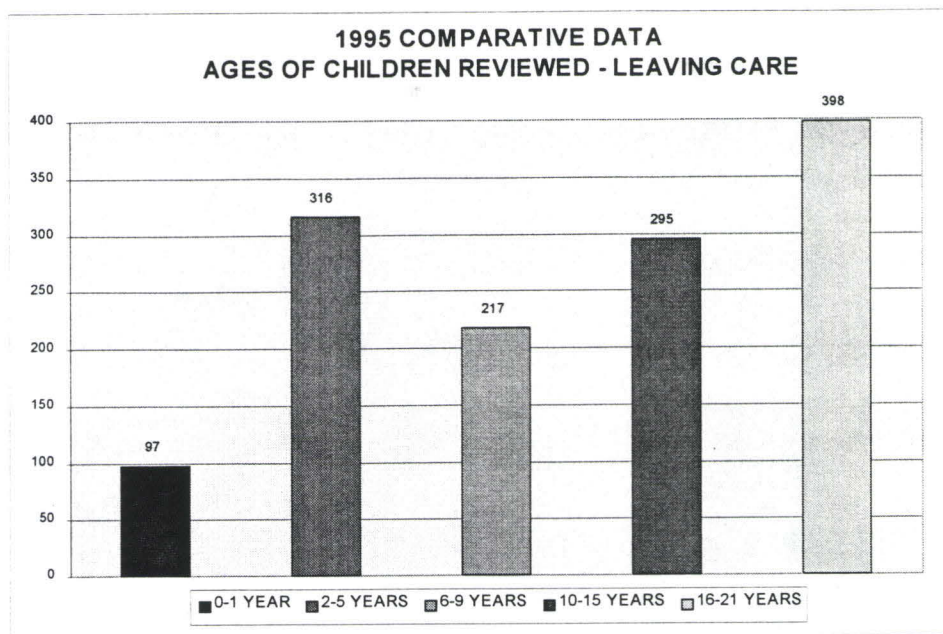


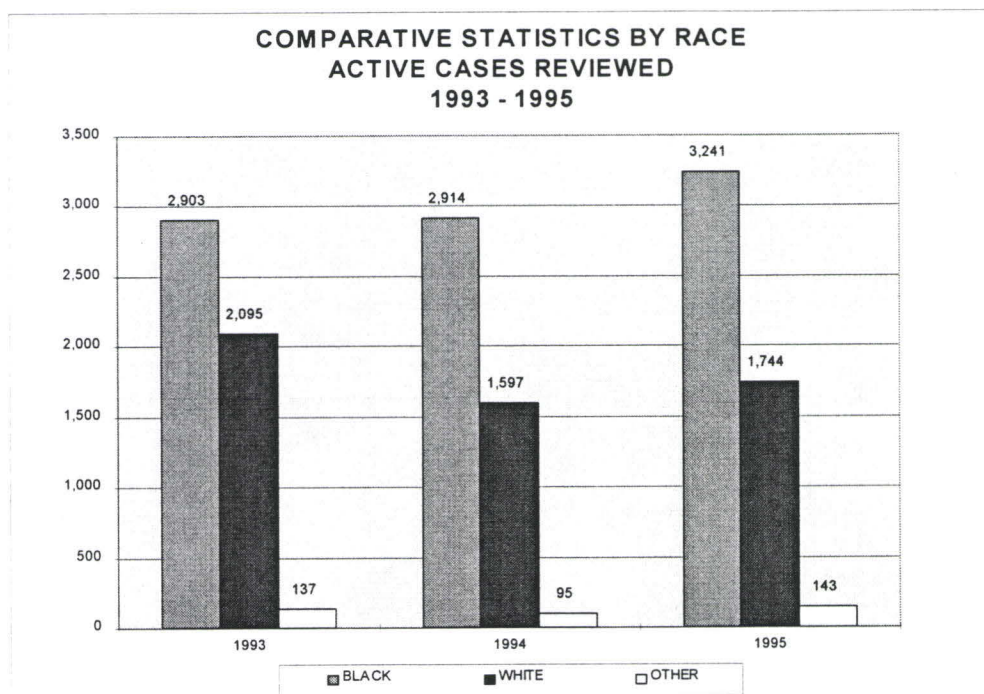
TABLE C



Statistical Comparison by Race

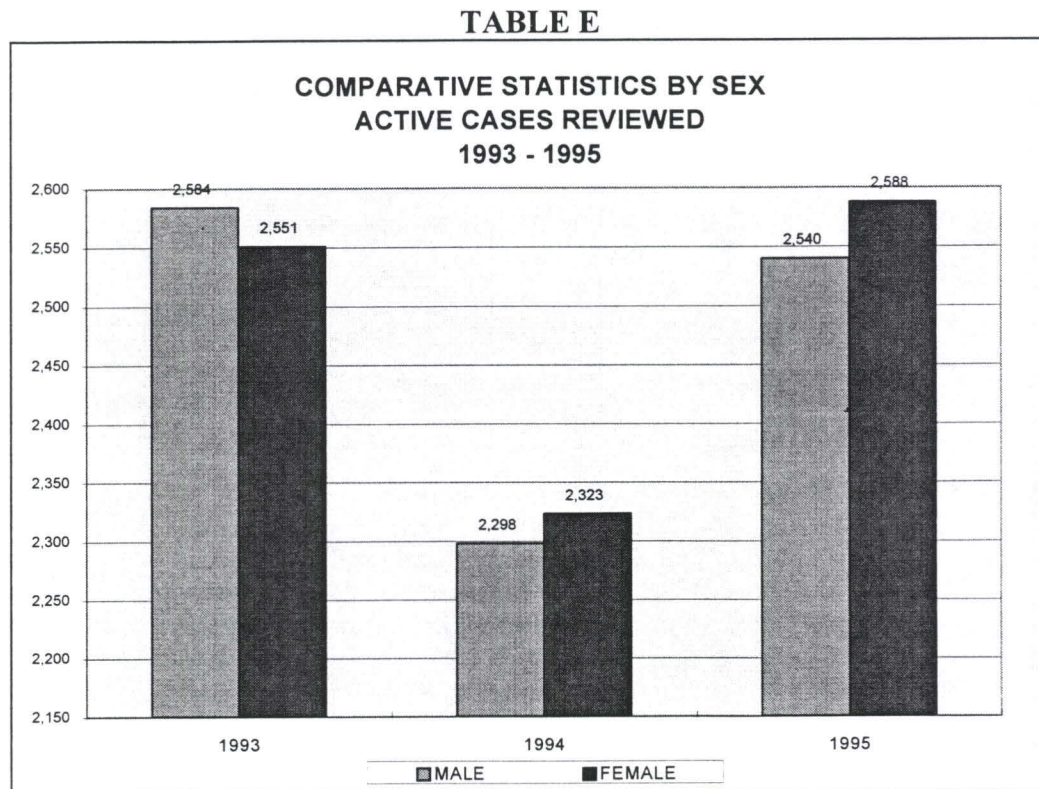
Table D depicts the race of children who were reviewed and remained active during 1993, 1994 and 1995. These statistics show a twelve percent (12%) increase in the number of black children active in the system when comparing 1993 and 1995 data. Data for 1995 indicates that sixty-three percent (63%) of the children active in the foster care population are black, thirty-four percent (34%) are white and three percent (3%) are of other races or biracial.

TABLE D



Statistical Comparison by Sex

Table E depicts the sex of children who were reviewed and remained active during 1993, 1994 and 1995. As in previous years, the percentage of males and females active in the foster care population is almost equal.



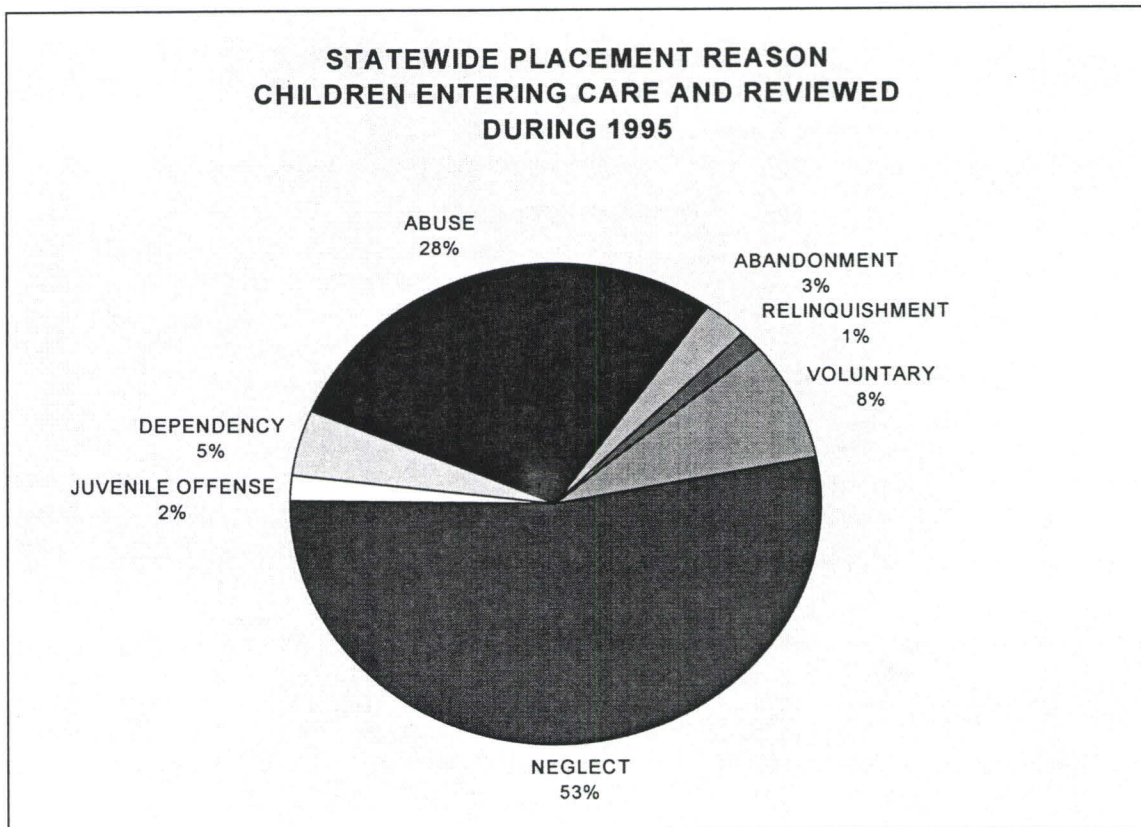
Why are children placed in foster care in South Carolina?

The Foster Care Review Board is legally mandated to review all children who have been in public foster care for a period of more than four consecutive months. Children placed in public foster care become wards of the state through a Family Court action with legal custody being held by the Department of Social Services.

During 1995, children reviewed in South Carolina entered foster care in one of the four following ways: 1) Ninety-one percent (91%) were placed involuntarily through the Family Court as a result of neglect, abuse, abandonment or dependency ; 2) eight percent (8%) were voluntarily placed by their custodial parents; 3) two percent (2%) entered as a result of a juvenile offense; and 4) one percent (1%) were voluntarily relinquished for the purpose of adoption.

Table F presents statewide data on the percentage for each type of placement. The percentage of children described in Table F combines the categories of physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse.

TABLE F



The individual categories for each type of abuse are designated with associated percentages in Table G. Statistical data generated by the Review Board annually continues to indicate that neglect at fifty-three percent (53%), continues to be the most frequent reason for placement of children in foster care in South Carolina. This is a twenty-seven percent (27%) increase in the number of children placed due to neglect during 1993.

TABLE G

**STATEWIDE PLACEMENT REASONS FOR
CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE - 1995***

Time Period: 1/1/95-12/31/95

PLACEMENT REASON	FREQUENCY	% OF TOTAL PLACEMENTS
1) NEGLECT	543	53.4
2) ABUSE/PHYSICAL	120	11.8
3) THREAT/PHYSICAL	79	7.8
4) ABUSE/SEXUAL	58	5.7
5) THREAT/SEXUAL	26	2.6
6) ABUSE/EMOTIONAL	4	0.4
7) ABANDONMENT	28	2.8
8) DEPENDENCY	46	4.5
9) VOLUNTARY	82	8.1
10) RELINQUISHMENT	13	1.3
11) JUVENILE OFFENSE	15	1.5
TOTALS	1014	99.9

*Reflects only those children reviewed by the Review Board for the first time during 1995.

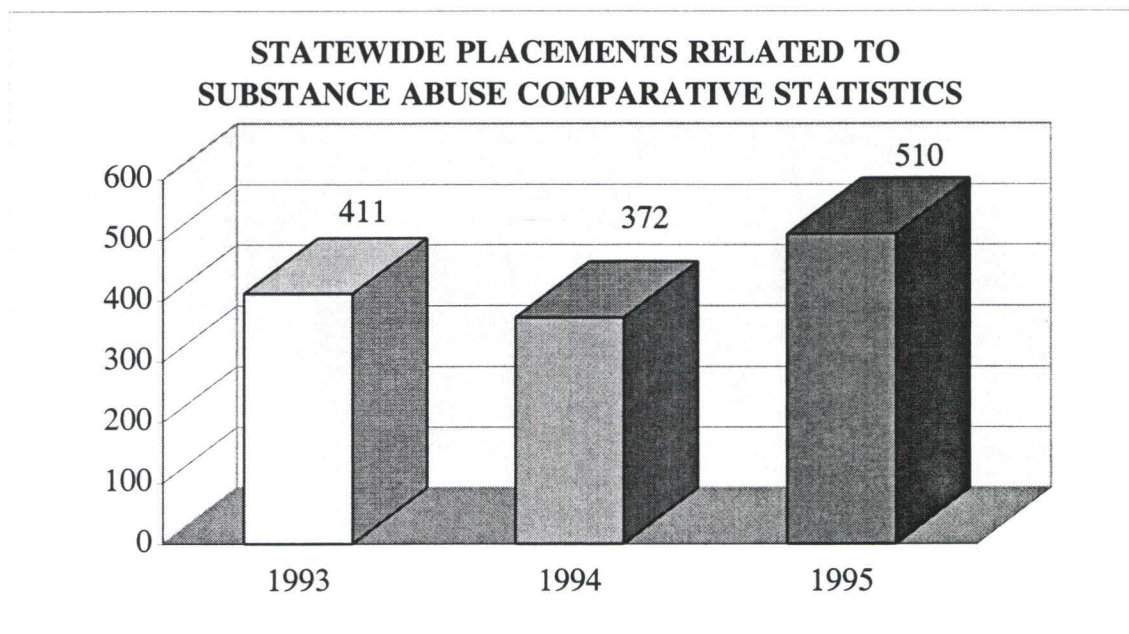
How many children in the foster care system are affected by substance abuse ?

The number of substance abuse related placements of children in the foster care system has been tracked statistically by the Review Board since 1990. Substance abuse continues to be a significant factor in the reasons children are placed in foster care in 1995.

Review Board data for 1995 indicates that substance abuse was a contributing factor in the placements for 510 (50%) of the 1019 children who entered foster care and were reviewed for the first time during 1995. These figures reflect a thirty-seven percent (37%) increase when compared to 1994 data.

Table H describes the increase in children effected by substance abuse and reviewed by the Review Board from 1993 to 1995.

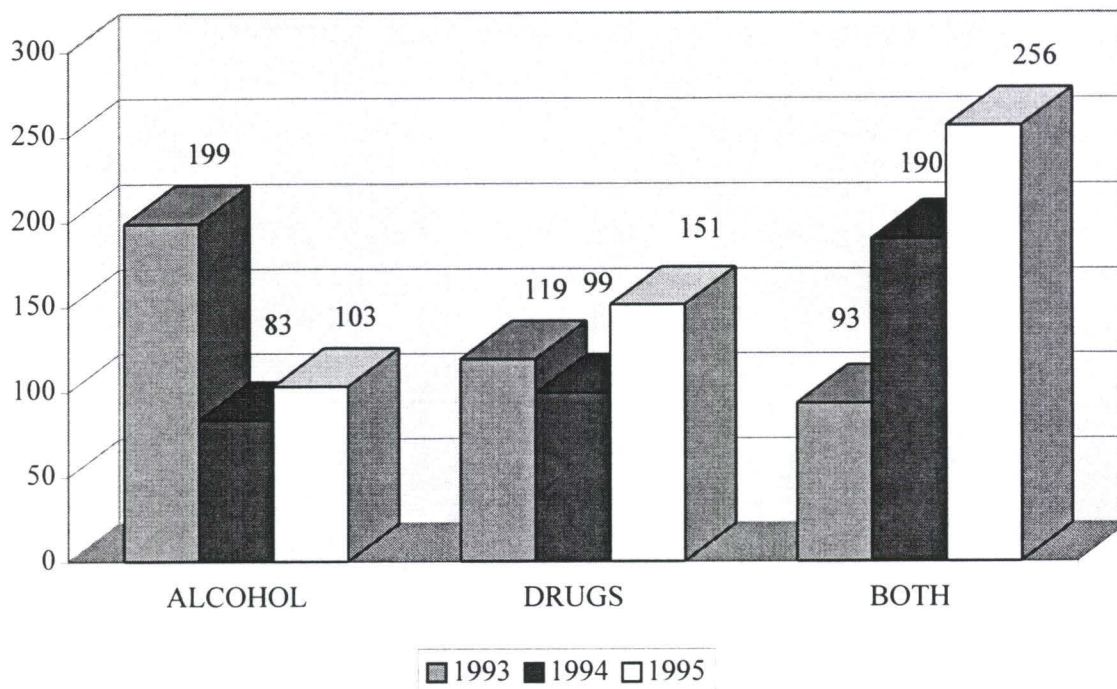
TABLE H



Data presented in Table I describes the children entering foster care during 1995 whose placements were affected by substance abuse. Table I provides a breakdown on the type of substance abuse involved in the placement. The Review Board divides these into three categories, alcohol, drugs or both.

TABLE I

**STATEWIDE PLACEMENTS RELATED TO
SUBSTANCE ABUSE CHILDREN ENTERING CARE
1993-1995**

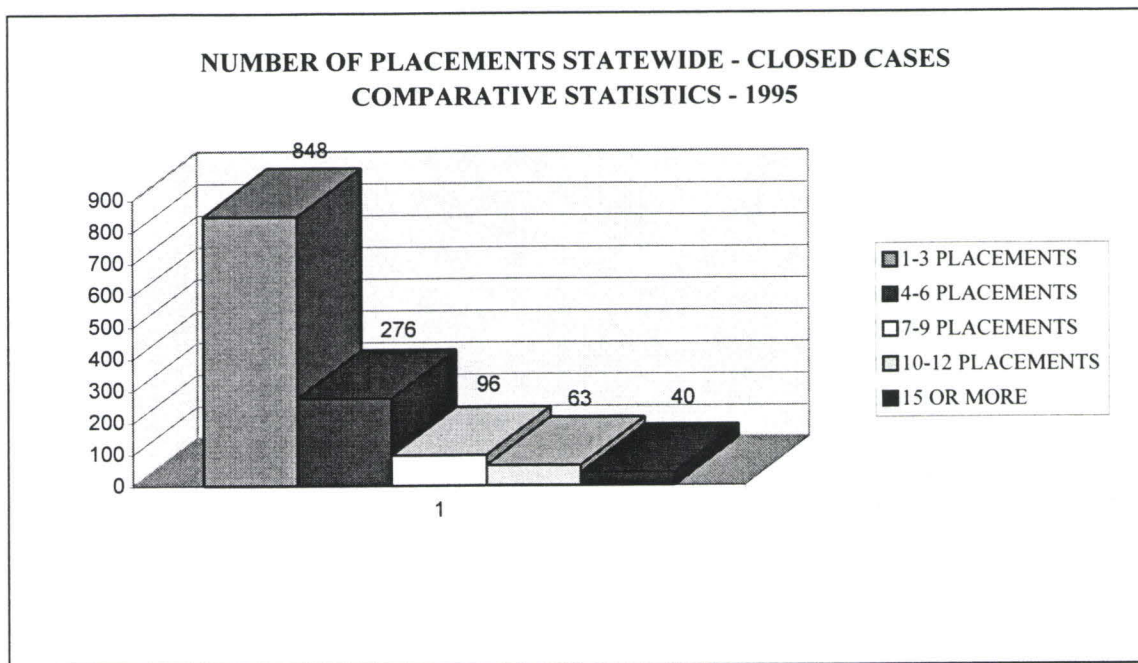


How many placements did children leaving care in 1995 experience?

Children removed from their families and placed in foster care frequently experience more than one placement while in care. Research shows the initial placement in foster care is extremely traumatic for a child and additional moves once in the foster care system can be very detrimental to the child's development. The younger the child, the more critical the need for stability in one home becomes.

Table J compares the number of placements experienced by children reviewed during 1995. This data indicates that the majority of children in foster care experience between one and three different placements while in foster care.

TABLE J

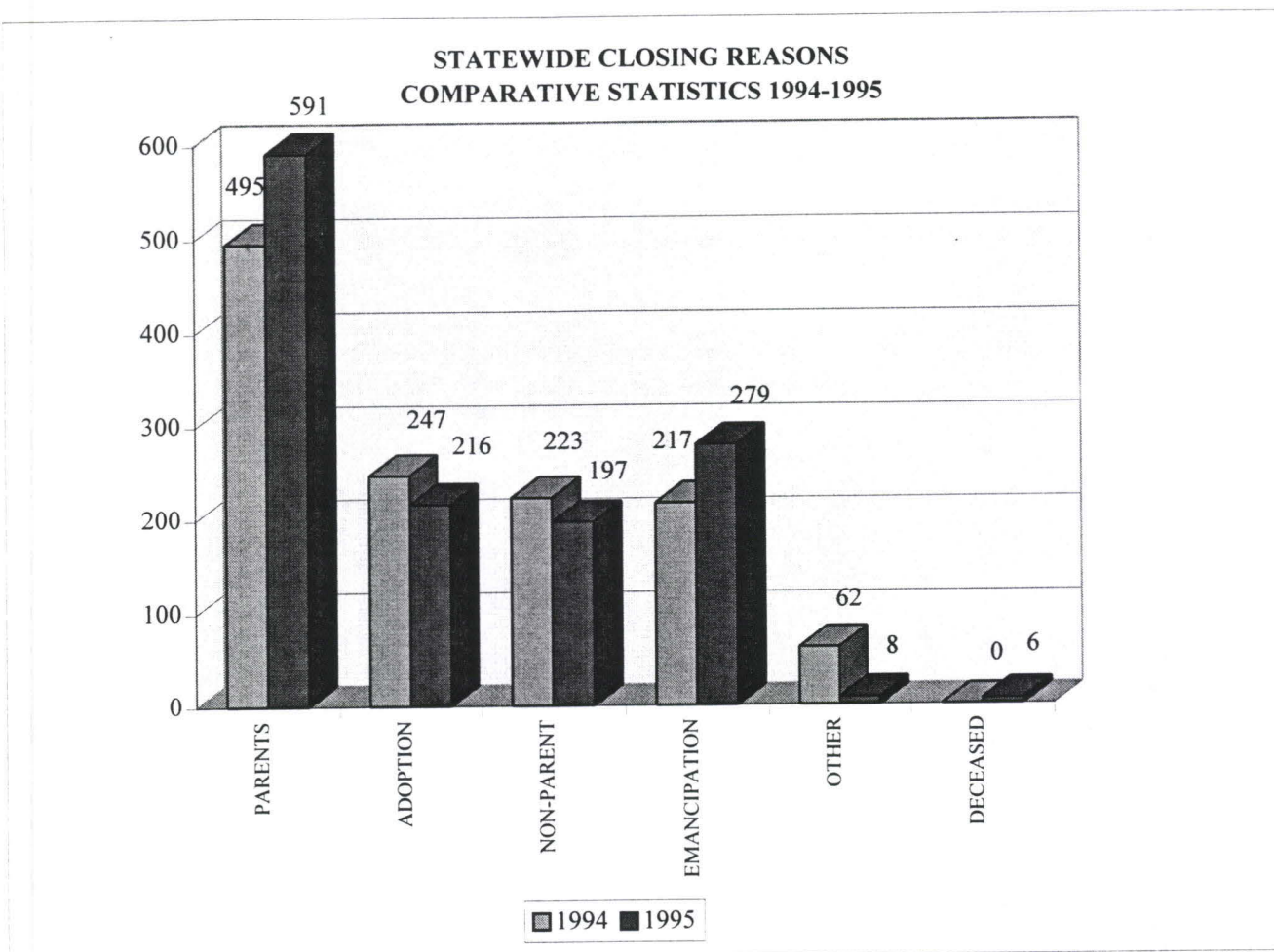


Where do children go when they leave foster care?

One thousand three hundred and twenty-three (1,323) of the children in the Review Board system left care in 1995. Forty-four percent (44%) of these children were returned to their parents. Sixteen percent (16%) were legally adopted, seventeen percent (17%) had legal custody transferred to relatives or other individuals and twenty-one percent (21%) left the system by emancipation. One percent (1%) of the children died during 1995 and one-percent (1%) of those leaving the system during 1995 left for other reasons than the five categories tracked by the Review Board.

Table K compares the number of children leaving foster care in 1995 to the number of children leaving in each category during 1994. Data continues to reflect that the majority of children who leave the foster care system are returned home to their birth parents.

TABLE K



How long do children stay in the foster care system?

A major goal of foster care review is to achieve a permanent placement for a child as soon as possible; therefore, it is important to measure the amount of time a child spends in care. 1995 data shows that the average length of time that a child spends in foster care has decreased from 3.10 years in 1988 to 2.7 years in 1995. This is a slight decrease from 1994 data that showed 2.9 years as the average length of time spent in foster care.

Do children return to foster care once they leave?

There is very little longitudinal data to document what happens to children once they leave the foster care system. Review Board data for 1995 indicates that twelve percent (12%) of the children who remained active in the system as of December 31, 1995, had left and returned to foster care at least one time.

1995 THERAPEUTIC MEDICAID PLACEMENT DATA

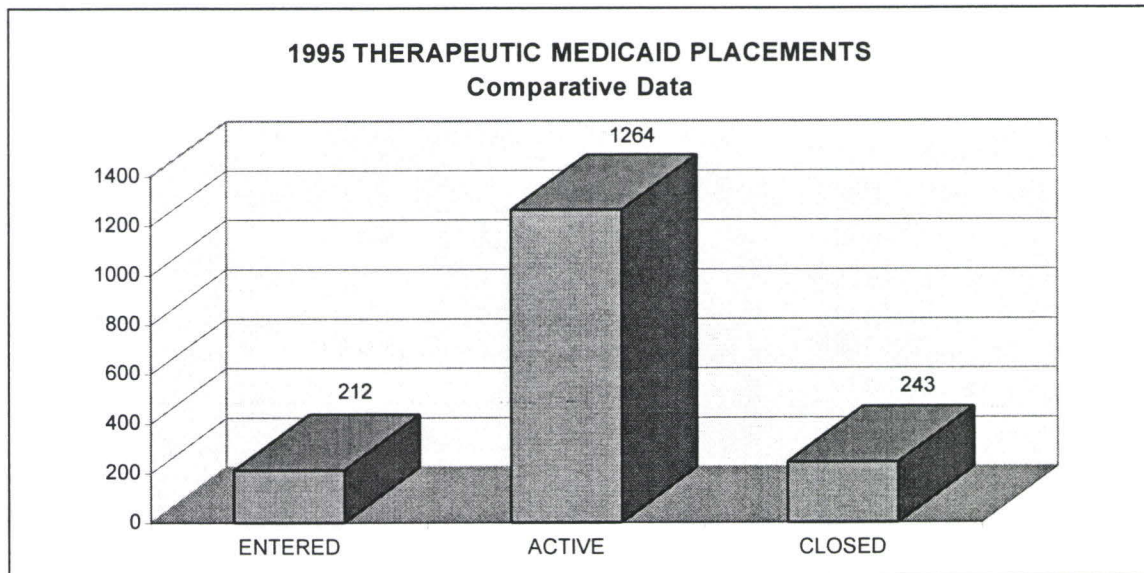
The Division of Foster Care Review operates a quality assurance review system for emotionally disturbed Medicaid eligible children who reside in residential treatment placements. This program was initiated pursuant to a contract with the Department of Health and Human Services and has been operational since April, 1992.

The goal of the Medicaid Review System is to: ensure that placement of emotionally disturbed Medicaid eligible children under the age of twenty-one (21) in residential treatment is appropriate; ensure that the level of care provided to each child is offered in the least restrictive environment appropriate to meet the child's treatment needs; make certain that the parties responsible for the care, supervision and treatment of the child regularly communicate with one another and evaluate the child's progress and continuing need for treatment; and, ensure that permanency planning is addressed as a part of the child's therapeutic treatment plan. This system was incorporated into the current structure of the Review Board and provides regular six month review for all children in public foster care residing in therapeutic placements and tracks progress towards achievement of case management goals for each child.

During 1995, local Review Boards conducted a total of two thousand and thirty two (2032) reviews on a total of one thousand, two hundred and sixty-four (1264) children residing in Medicaid funded therapeutic placements. Children in therapeutic placements funded by Medicaid represent twenty-five percent (25%) of the total number of active children reviewed by local Boards during 1995.

Table L presents data as to the number of children in therapeutic placements who entered care, left care, and remained active during the 1995 time period.

TABLE L



The Review Board reviews children in several different types of therapeutic placements funded by Medicaid. These placements run from the least restrictive therapeutic foster home setting to inpatient hospitalization for severely emotionally disturbed children. Table M describes the number and percentage of children in each of the different types of Medicaid placements tracked by the Review Board.

TABLE M

**1995 THERAPEUTIC MEDICAID PLACEMENTS
STATEWIDE LOCATION TYPE**

LOCATION TYPE	NUMBER	% OF STATE PLACEMENTS
Therapeutic Foster Home	715	57%
High Managment Group Home	180	14%
Moderate Management Group Home	166	13%
Residential Treatment Program	98	8%
Inpatient Treatment Hospital	49	4%
Supervised Independent Living	33	3%
Crisis Stabilization Program	23	2%
TOTAL	1264	

The next three tables (Tables N, O and P) compare the number of children in therapeutic placements by selected age groups. Tables present information on the children who entered the foster care system, children who were active in the foster care population during 1995 and children who left the foster care system during 1995. Data on the children in therapeutic placements indicates that the largest number of children active in the therapeutic population are between the ages of ten and fifteen.

As in the regular foster care population, Table N indicates that the largest number of children in the therapeutic population leave care in the sixteen to twenty-one year age bracket.

TABLE N

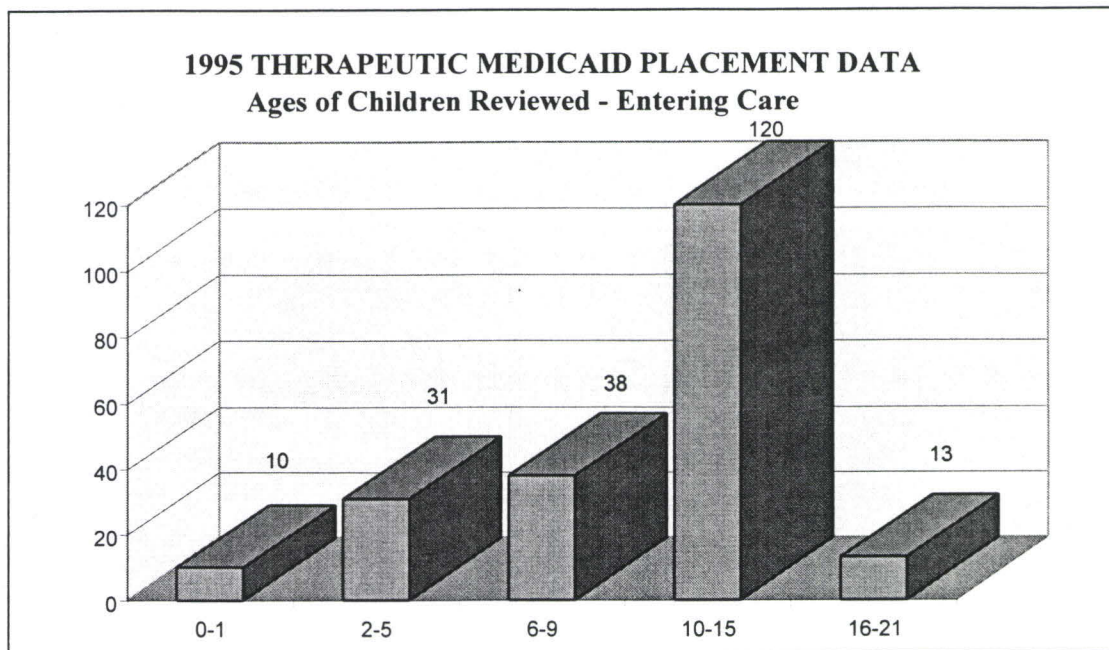


TABLE O

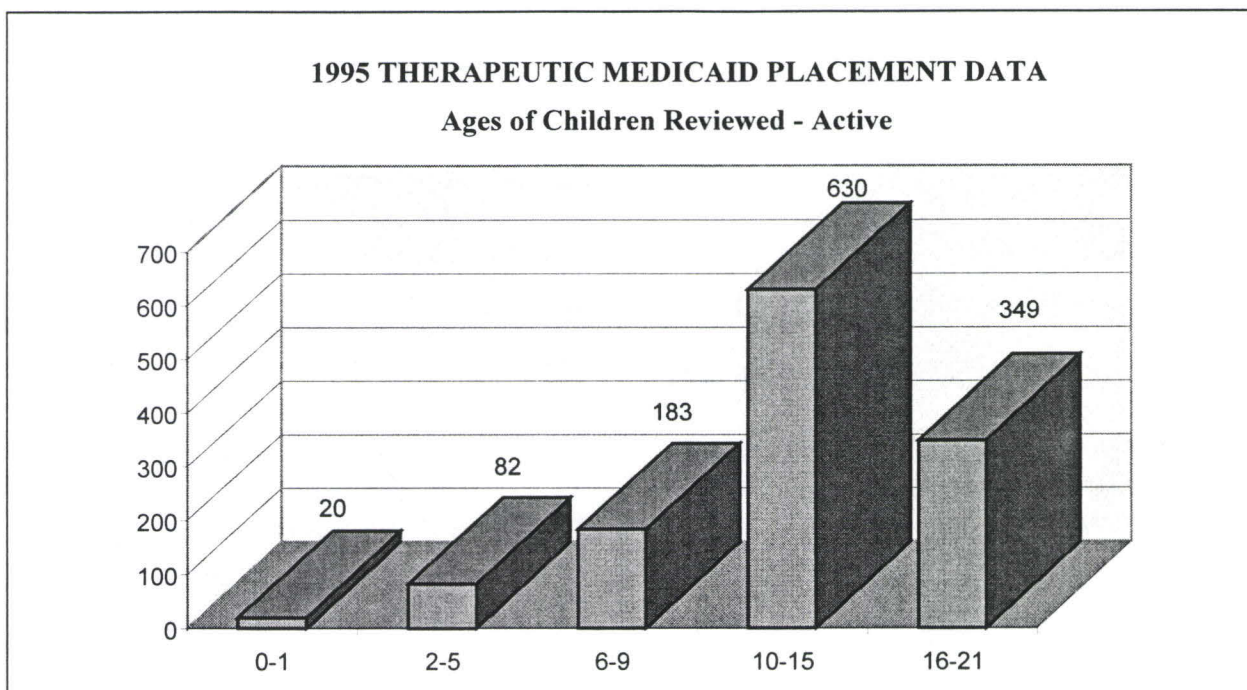


Table P depicts the age of children in therapeutic placements who entered foster care, were active in the foster care population during 1995, and those who left care during 1995. When considered as a separate population, the percentage of children who emancipate out of therapeutic placements is more than double the percentage (55%) of the children who emancipate out of the general foster care population (21%).

TABLE P

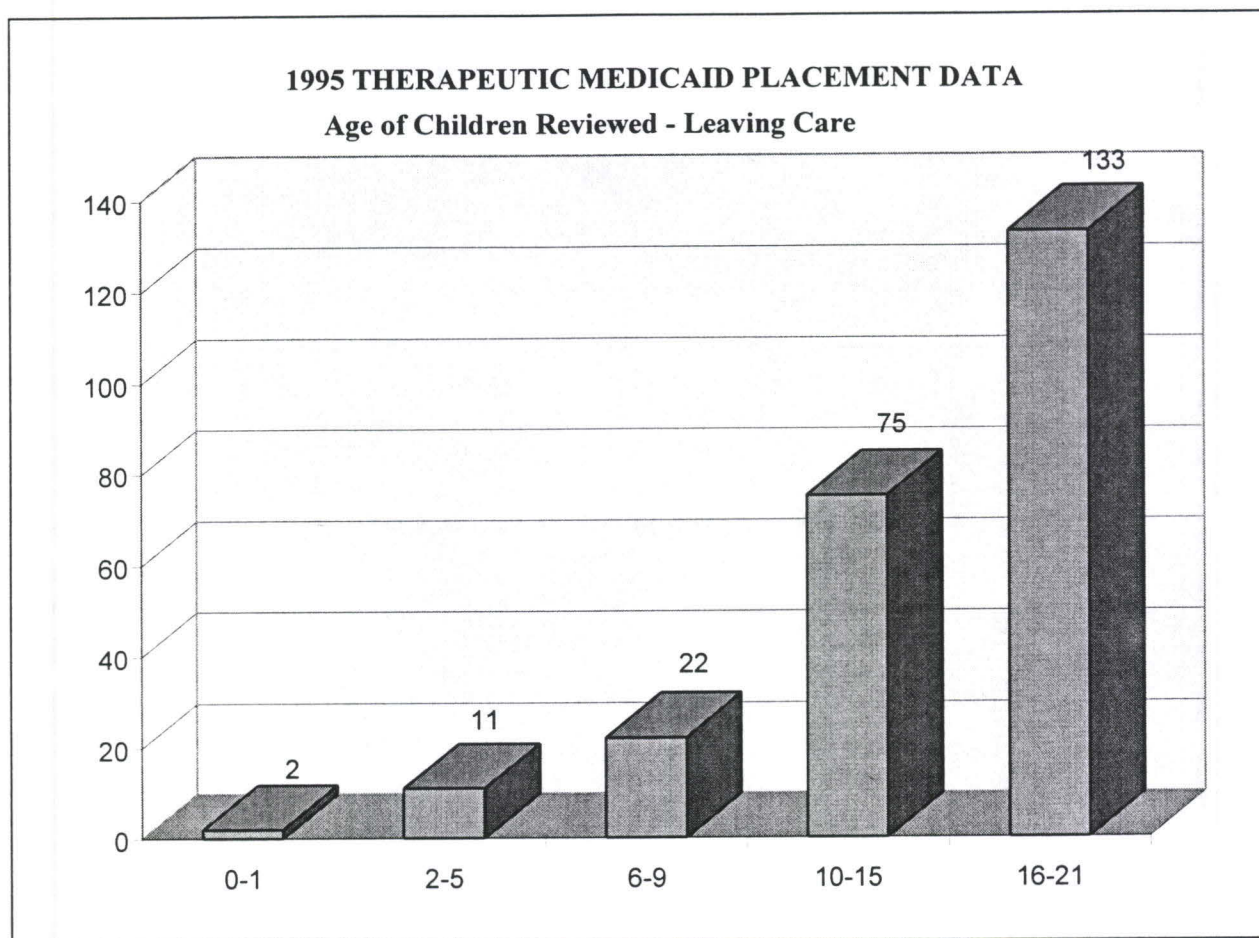


Table Q describes the sex of children in therapeutic placements. This data is outlined in the three categories: 1) children entering care; 2) children active in the system: and, 3) children leaving the therapeutic system. A difference in this population when compared to the general foster care population is that there is a higher percentage of males in the active therapeutic population when compared to females. In the general foster care population, the percentage of children of each sex is almost equal.

TABLE Q

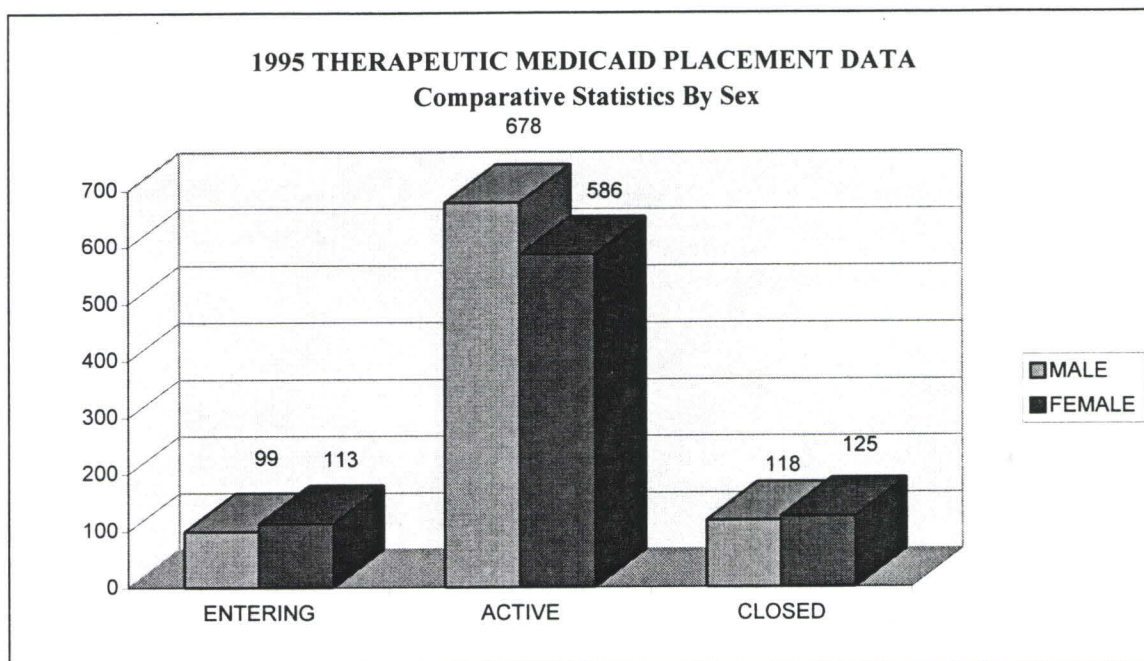
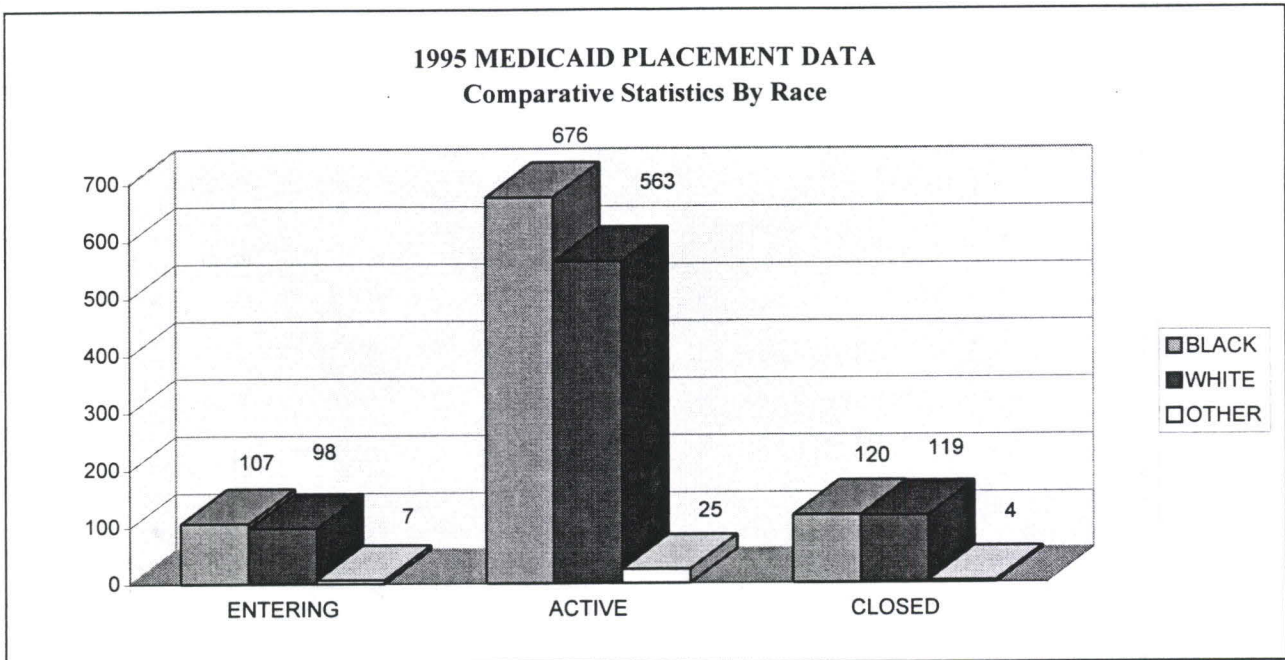


Table R describes the racial breakdown of children in therapeutic placements. This data indicates that fifty-three percent (53%) of the children active in the therapeutic population are black. When compared with the breakdown by sex in Table Q, it appears that while the racial and sexual balance of children entering and leaving the system are almost equal, black males remain active in the therapeutically placed population at a higher rate than females.

TABLE R



The number of foster care placements experienced by children in therapeutic settings must be carefully monitored by those responsible for case management. Any move for a child can have long lasting, dramatic effects and these effects can be critically compounded when considering a child with emotional problems. Stability is a large part of what the treatment process for children in therapeutic settings must be directed to obtaining. These children more than any others reviewed by the Review Board will need the security and guidance a permanent family can provide.

Data presented in Table S indicates the number of different placements that children placed in therapeutic placements who left care in 1995 experienced. The percentage of therapeutically placed children experiencing between four and nine placements was almost double the percentage of children in the regular foster care population with the same number of placements. Children in therapeutic placements leaving care during 1995 averaged a slightly longer length of time in foster care (3.1 years) than those leaving care in the regular foster care population (2.7 years).

TABLE S

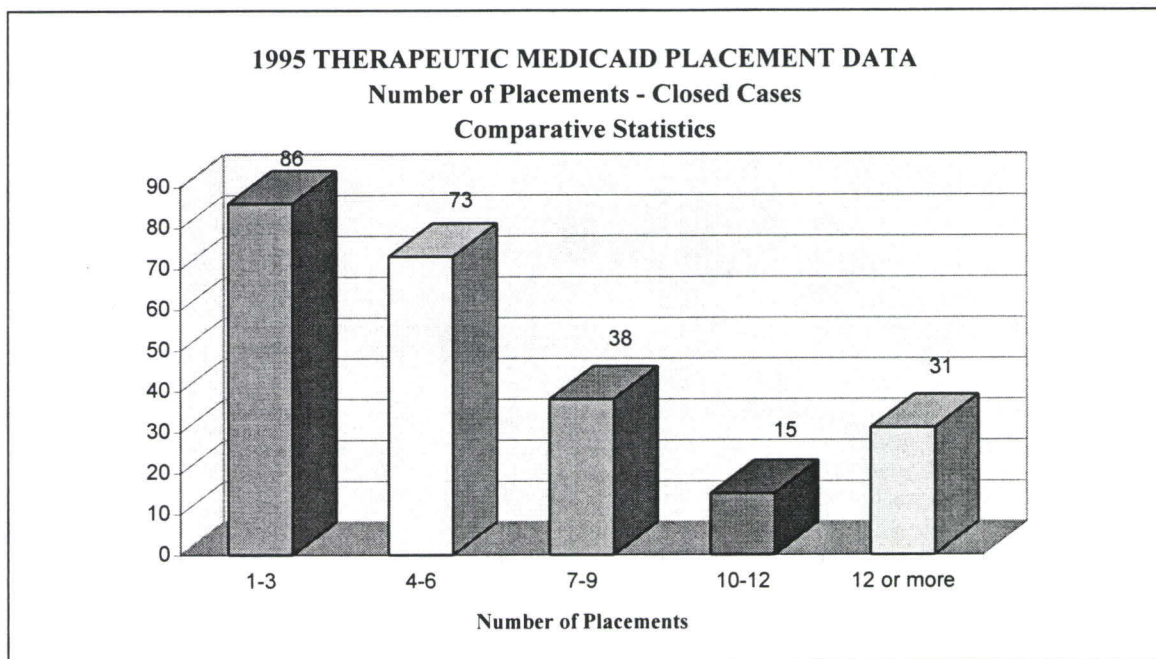


Table T compares the number of children who left care during 1995 while in therapeutic placements. This data indicates that children returning to parents, and children emancipating out of the system occurred almost equally during the time period. Adoption was a permanent resolution for less than two percent (2%) of these children.

TABLE T

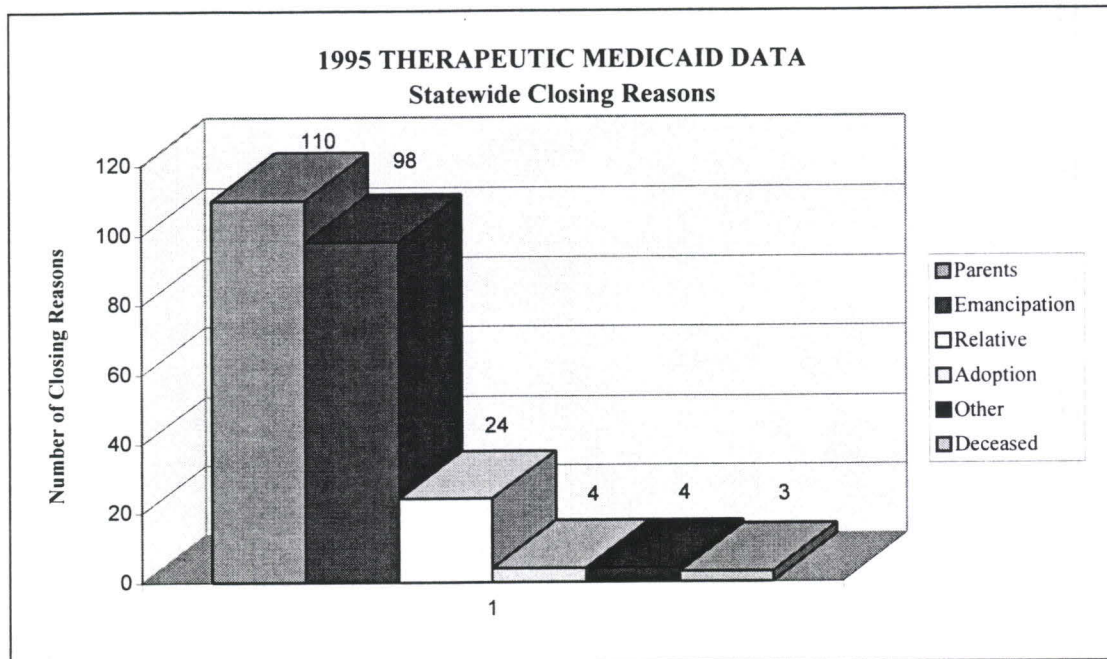


Table U describes the number of therapeutic Medicaid placements in each county and Area Adoption Region. Union County had the highest percentage of children in therapeutic placements during 1995 (100%) and Oconee County had the lowest percentage (4%). Area IV and Area V Adoption Regions showed 2% of their cases in therapeutic placements while Area III was the highest adoption region with 14%.

TABLE U
THERAPEUTIC PLACEMENT BY COUNTY
January 1, 1995 - December 31, 1995

COUNTY	#Children reviewed	# Children in TP	% in TP	COUNTY	# Children reviewed	#Children in TP	% in TP
ABBEVILLE	24	4	17%	GREENWOOD	42	7	17%
AIKEN	246	103	42%	HAMPTON	35	6	17%
ALLENDALE	27	6	22%	HORRY	301	69	23%
ANDERSON	223	53	24%	JASPER	16	1	6%
BAMBERG	40	11	28%	KERSHAW	57	17	30%
BARNWELL	50	16	32%	LANCASTER	88	19	22%
BEAUFORT	97	23	24%	LAURENS	46	12	26%
BERKELEY	167	35	21%	LEE	27	13	48%
CALHOUN	16	8	50%	LEXINGTON	112	36	32%
CHARLESTON	518	103	20%	MARION	81	22	27%
CHEROKEE	55	15	27%	MARLBORO	38	6	16%
CHESTER	50	15	30%	MCCORMICK	14	4	29%
CHESTERFIELD	43	8	19%	NEWBERRY	27	8	30%
CLARENDON	73	15	21%	OCONEE	82	3	4%
COLLETON	74	12	16%	ORANGEBURG	167	35	21%
DARLINGTON	63	18	29%	PICKENS	58	26	45%
DILLON	43	8	19%	RICHLAND	618	142	23%
DORCHESTER	101	20	20%	SALUDA	38	12	32%
EDGEFIELD	40	13	33%	SPARTANBURG	292	81	28%
FAIRFIELD	33	8	24%	SUMTER	118	23	20%
FLORENCE	226	38	17%	UNION	6	6	100%
GEORGETOWN	58	16	28%	WILLIAMSBURG	26	5	19%
GREENVILLE	287	89	31%	YORK	154	52	34%
AREA I	47	6	13%	AREA IV	51	1	2%
AREA II	37	2	5%	AREA V	47	1	2%
AREA III	76	11	14%	AREA VI	21	1	4%

MEDICAID REVIEW SYSTEM

The Division of Foster Care Review operates a quality assurance review system for emotionally disturbed Medicaid eligible children who reside in residential treatment placements. This program has been operational through a contract with the Department of Health and Human Services since 1992. Local Review Boards who have concerns about the quality of treatment, or the appropriateness of a therapeutic placement may make a referral to the Medicaid Review Specialist. The Medicaid Review Specialist may arrange a separate Medicaid staffing with appropriate parties, or conduct additional inquiries relative to the case.

In addition to referrals for local Review Boards, the Medicaid Review System is involved with other interagency collaborative efforts on behalf of emotionally disturbed children. The Medicaid Review Specialist is a regular participant in a program assistance effort that offers training and technical assistance to private providers who are providing therapeutic services to children. Routine reviews drawn on a sample population of children in select therapeutic placements also are conducted throughout the year.

During 1995, the Medicaid Quality Assurance System conducted separate reviews on one hundred and seventy (170) children in Medicaid funded therapeutic placements. Of the children reviewed, eighty-five percent (85%) required residential (therapeutic) treatment services. Sixty-eight percent (68%) were placed at the appropriate level of care and sixty-five percent (65%) were in placements appropriate for their needs.⁵

Another function of the Medicaid Quality Assurance Review System is to identify areas of concern. These Areas of Concern cited are for the purpose of identifying problems which may impede and/or adversely effect the treatment of children in Medicaid funded therapeutic placement and/or result in the recoupment of Medicaid funding. Table V identifies the Areas of Concern identified and the associated percentages. Areas of Concern tracked by the Medicaid Quality Assurance Review System are as follow:

Communication - A lack of communication or coordination between members of a child's treatment team which may include lead clinical specialist, Department of Social Services caseworker or casemanager, therapist, foster parent, child, physician and Continuum of Care service coordinator.

Delivery of Services - A delay or lack of implementation of therapeutic interventions identified in the child's treatment plan.

Discharge/Transitional Planning - No development and/or implementation of an appropriate plan when preparing to discharge a child from a therapeutic program.

⁵ Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent. In some cases, information received was insufficient to make accurate assessments on several children from each category.

Monitoring/Medication - Failure to have a physician routinely and appropriately monitor the administration of medication for a child in a therapeutic setting.

Permanency Planning - No identification of a permanent plan by the treatment team working as the child's casemanagers.

Treatment Plan - No treatment plan developed for the child, or a treatment plan that fails to support the need for the identified level of care or the need for treatment services; the format of the treatment plan may be inappropriate, or the treatment plan is generic and not child specific.

Visitation - There is insufficient visitation or contacts between the child and family members or significant others where appropriate.

Other - Refers to any problem which may adversely affect treatment services not otherwise identified.

TABLE V

MEDICAID REVIEW AREAS OF CONCERN

Time Period: 1/1/95-12/31/95

AREA OF CONCERN	FREQUENCY	% OF TOTAL CONCERNS
1) PERMANENCY PLANNING	21	12.4
2) TREATMENT PLANNING	19	11.2
3) OTHER	13	8.0
4) DELIVERY OF SERVICES	11	6.5
5) COMMUNICATION	11	6.5
6) VISITATION	01	1.1
7) DISCHARGE/TRANSITION PLAN	0	-
8) MONITORING MEDICATION	0	-
TOTALS:	76	100

*Case specifics provided on each child's Medicaid Review Report.

APPENDIX A

Governor's Office / Division of Foster Care Review SC Department of Social Services

1995 LAC ADHOC Committee Report

I. Committee Structure and Purpose

In 1994, members of the General Assembly requested that the South Carolina Legislative Audit Council (LAC) audit the activities of the Governor's Office Division of Foster Care Review. One of the recommendations made by the LAC in their final report dated January, 1995, was that the Department of Social Services should identify ways that the information generated by the Review Boards could be used more effectively. In an effort to address this recommendation, an ADHOC committee made up of representatives of the Department of Social Services staff and Review Board staff was formed.¹

The committee met a total of six times and discussed a variety of solutions to ensure data generated by the Review Board would be used more effectively. Other areas of discussion also arose as a result of these meetings. The committee agreed upon five goals from which to base their work. It was agreed that any system changes developed by the committee would adhere to the basic concepts of the stated goals. The goals are as follow:

- Care must be taken to maximize the contributions of citizens who volunteer their time as Review Board members and their efforts to improve the foster care system.
- Efforts should continue to ensure compliance with PL 96 272 while recognizing that block granting in child welfare may eventually afford the state flexibility but would not be justification for eliminating those policies and procedures which all agree contribute to good casework practice.
- Considering the implementation of DSS' statewide Program Quality Assurance (PQA) requirements, ways to share information between DSS and the FCRB should be developed in order to avoid duplicative data collection.
- Work to redefine the relationship between the Department of Social Services and the Review Board as a cooperative team. Recognizing that DSS and the Review Board are both accountable to the Governor of South Carolina there should be less concern about the sharing of case information. Both organizations can work together to effectively provide program oversight of foster care services and advocacy on behalf of children and families in South Carolina.
- Identify ways of eliminating duplication of activities as they relate to staffings and reviews of children's cases.

Ideas generated from the committee were taken back to Review Board and DSS staff for further comment and input. Shared ideas and suggestions were compiled and recommendations for system reform developed.

¹ The following individuals were participants on the ADHOC Committee: Susan Bowling, Denise Barker, Kali Campbell Turner, Governor's Office, Division of Foster Care Review; Wayne Bell, Lancaster County DSS; Margaret Key, Aiken County DSS; Bill Walker, Lexington County DSS; Brenda Jamison, Calhoun County DSS; Janie Rothel, Oconee County DSS; Ramona Foley, Katherine Kendrick, Alan Hinnant, Steve Rivers, SC DSS

II. Recommended System Reforms

The committee recommends that a new pilot review program be initiated by the Department of Social Services and the Division of Foster Care Review beginning January 1, 1996. This pilot project would incorporate systemic changes agreed upon by the committee. An outline of the changes to be incorporated into the pilot project are outlined below.

1. **Begin citizen review of children after three months in foster care. This will eliminate the perceived duplication of review with the court and will provide the counties and the family court with two citizen reviews prior to the first judicial review. The second citizen review should be used as preparation for the upcoming twelve month judicial review. This recommendation is also in agreement with the principals of the Kellogg grant by having a permanent plan realized for a child by the twelve month time frame.**

<u>Time Frame</u>	<u>Activity</u>
3 months	First citizen review
9 months	Second citizen review
12 months	Judicial Review/Case Resolution

2. **Provide Foster Care Review Board with necessary information and documentation three weeks prior to the scheduled review.**

Review Board staff will meet with pilot project county staff and conduct training of what documentation is needed prior to the review and what information is not necessary. This will eliminate the flood of unnecessary information currently being sent to the Review Board by some counties and should streamline the process for counties by cutting down on preparation time.

Once requested documentation is received from the pilot county, Review Board staff will prepare a pre-review report based on the findings from the documentation and previous review history. This pre-review report would take the place of the current DSS 1597 form and would be sent to the county and to local Review Board members prior to the review. The report would outline projected Areas of Concern noted from the documentation and would give the county an opportunity to resolve some Concerns prior to the actual review. Another goal of the pre-review report would be to eliminate the need to spend time at reviews on technical issues and free up volunteers time at review to assess progress and quality issues.

3. **Revise current Areas of Concern to streamline concerns and to reduce the number of concerns related strictly to the Review Board system.**

Revisions:

No Timely Review/CW Absent revised to No Timely Review

No Psychologicals at Review deleted as a separate concern and cited as a Policy and Procedure Violation

Inaccurate Information at Review to be deleted.

No Non-Concurrence Submitted to be deleted.



4. Location of Pilot Project

The locations for the pilot project will be: Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, Newberry, Marlboro, Dillon, Chesterfield, Darlington and Richland counties.

5. Training and Communication

The success of the pilot project will depend largely on the ability of the Review Board and the Department of Social Services to communicate effectively. To start this process, the Review Board would like to invite the Regional Directors from the Department of Social Services to attend the Review Board's Annual Conference scheduled for Friday, November 17, 1995. The afternoon session has been set aside as a time to explain the pilot project to Review Board members and the Regional Directors, then the Regional Directors will be given time to meet in smaller groups with the local Board members who review their counties. This will allow the groups an opportunity to discuss how they can best work together and identify specific needs and concerns.



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

DAVID M. BEASLEY
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE
POLICY AND PROGRAMS

*** MEMORANDUM ***

FROM: Susan B. Bowling, Division Director

DATE: April 2, 1997

RE: Annual Report 1995-96

South Carolina Code section 20-7-2379 requires the Division of Foster Care Review to produce an annual report making recommendations to the Governor and child caring agencies with regard to policies, procedures and practices by foster care agencies in South Carolina. Information and data for the 1995-96 Annual Report was determined from reviews conducted by the thirty-six (36) local Review Boards. Local Boards conducted a total of eight thousand nine hundred and seven (8907) reviews on a total of five thousand, one hundred and twenty-eight (5128) children from January 1, 1995 to December 31, 1995.

Enclosed is a copy of the Division's Annual Report for 1995-95. If you have questions or comments about the report, please contact me, or our Program Director, Denise Barker.

Thank you.